SPORTS / A21

Streaking Django, Bata, 2 other Pinoys advance

METRO / A18

NBI files 5 counts of robbery/extortion raps against Tulfo brothers

BUSINESS / B1

BSP survey: Consumers still pessimistic

WORLD / A20

Video shows Bin Laden met with planners of 9/11 attacks

British unions want Tony Blair to go now

LONDON—BRITAIN'S RULING LABOR PARTY risks losing the next election unless Prime Minister Tony Blair stands down immediately to give a new leader time to revive support and reshape policy, union chiefs say.

At the same time, a majority of the British public think Blair should resign from office this year, a poll published in The Daily Telegraph on Friday showed.

BRITISH/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, September 9, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 273 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Bird flu,' 'MP3' make it to crossword dictionary

"BIRD FLU," "BLOGOsphere," "Islamaphobe" and "MP3 player" have made it into the latest Chambers Dictionary, the august work of record used by crossword fans and Scrabble players the world over.

DAPAT ISALI DYAN ANG GARCI NOCNOC AT CON-ASS!

BIRD FLU/ A6

Palparan gets new job

GMA names communist rebs' nemesis to anti-insurgency post

MARCHING ORDER. President Macapagal-Arroyo talks to Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan regarding his new assignment at the Reception Hall of Malacañang. Set to retire on Monday, Palparan went to Malacañang for a courtesy call on the eve of her departure for Europe, the United States and Cuba. LYN RILLON

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE CONTROVERSIAL GENERAL whom the communist New People's Army describes as a "dead man walking" has a new job waiting.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, outgoing commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division and due for retirement on Sept. 11, will be named deputy for anti-insurgency operations at the National Security Council, according to Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

Defensor said in a phone interview yesterday that Malacañang could not afford to let go of Palparan, the Arroyo administration's poster boy in its all-out war against communist insurgents.

Palparan himself said he had "no problem" working at the National Security Council after his retirement from the military at the age of 56.

"*Pwede na rin* (It will do)," he told the INQUIRER in Central Luzon.

He said his appointment to another government post would help him continue his crusade against the communist insurgency.

With Palparan's new appointment, Malacañang made good its promise not to abandon the man tagged a "butcher" by militant groups, for his alleged involvement in the extrajudicial killing of leftist activists.

Palparan has repeatedly denied the charge.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Pal-

PALPARAN/ A8

'Reign of terror continues'

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

AS EXPECTED, LEADERS OF MILITANT organizations yesterday expressed alarm over the planned new post for Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan.

"The reign of terror will continue," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said almost in a whisper after being told of Palparan's impending appointment at the National Security Council.

"One of the theories we're looking at is that the extrajudicial killing of members of militant groups is being launched by death squads formed by the government's intelligence groups," Casiño told reporters.

"With Palparan as part of the intelligence community, we expect more killings to happen," he added.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza winced at the thought of Palparan exerting an amount of

REIGN/ A8

'Bomber' recants, denies airport test

By Alcuin Papa

THREATENED WITH INVESTIGATION and possible criminal charges, a security consultant to Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte yesterday denied he had carried out a security test on a domestic airliner involving live bomb materials.

Samson Macariola took a full week to come out with his version of a story that has thrown the spotlight on how adequate were the security measures at the country's airports.

Macariola's denial that he carried out a security test on a flight from Manila to Davao on Aug. 14 clashed in part with Duterte's own version of what happened.

Duterte, who is President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on antiterrorism, has told reporters that Macariola did, in fact, carry out a test. But he said Macariola only used a dummy for his test.

"That test never really happened," an empathic Macariola said in a phone interview.

He said that what he brought on the flight were "dummies" that he would be using in a training module for airport security in Davao.

"They were not live explosives. These were mock-ups. It was clay that looked like C4 and something that looked like a blasting cap. I was successful (in bringing these in) but they were not explosives. I only brought these things so the trainees can see the possibilities."

A C4 is a plastic explosive that has been used in terror attacks around the world.

"It was a simulation, it was not a security test," Macariola also said in a separate interview on radio dzBB.

Macariola issued his denial a week after journalist Arlyn dela Cruz, in a story carried by the INQUIRER on Sept. 1, said she had talked with an antiterrorism expert who had told her that he was able to slip past airport security and board a Manila-Davao flight carrying bomb components as part of a test.

The story did not identify the man, on his request. Days later, investigators released Macariola's name.

Aviation officials at first said

BOMBER/ A6

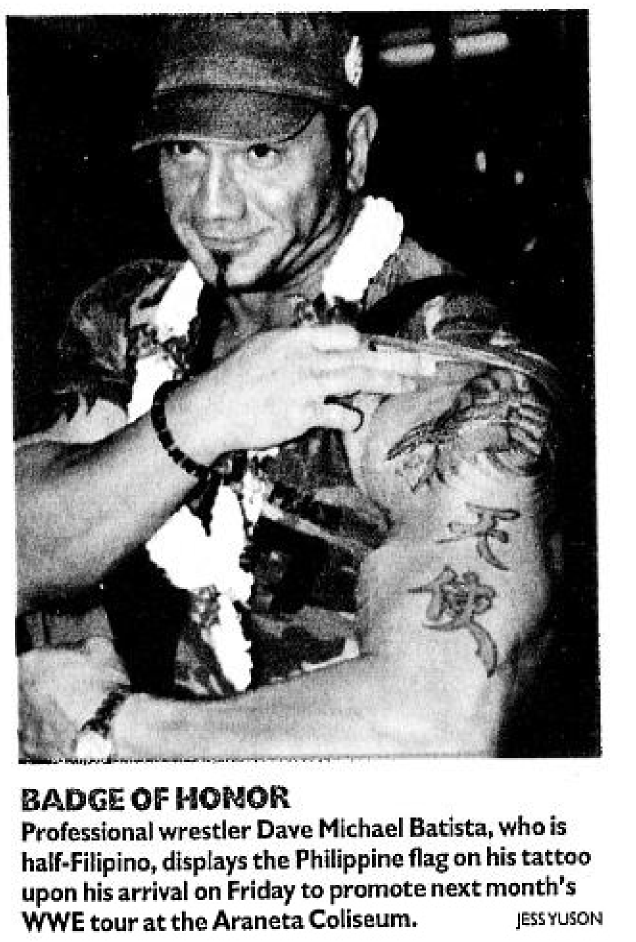
I stand by the story, a risk worth taking

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WAS DETERMINED and his voice was calm when the man seated across from me at a table in a pizza restaurant in Quezon City told me: "This story will test your spirit."

Our conversation, which also included two close friends, lasted two hours. It was the second time I had had the chance to talk with him and I thought he was one exceptional man who truly loved his country with-

I STAND/ A6



BADGE OF HONOR
Professional wrestler Dave Michael Batista, who is half-Filipino, displays the Philippine flag on his tattoo upon his arrival on Friday to promote next month's WWE tour at the Araneta Coliseum. JESS YUSON

PNP on full alert for GMA trip, 9/11 anniversary

By Alcuin Papa and Christine O. Avendaño

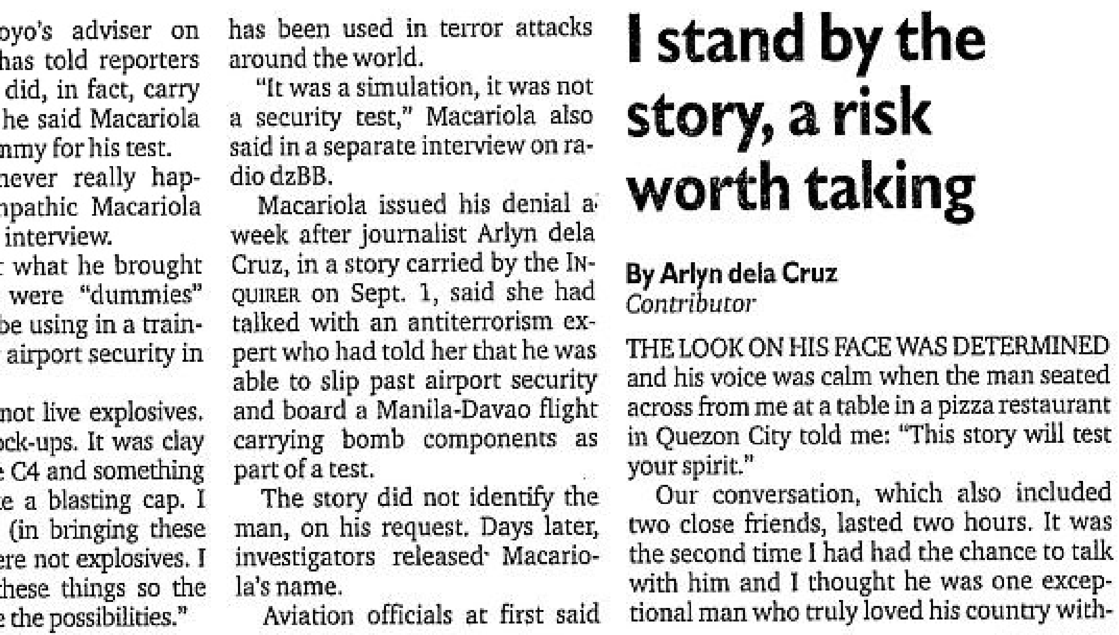
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE GOES on full alert starting today in connection with the trip to Europe of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States.

According to PNP Director General Oscar Calderon, the full alert will be declared at 6 a.m. today. A full alert means all PNP personnel in all units are required to stay at their posts. No leaves will be granted.

Ms Arroyo leaves today for an 11-day trip to Finland, Germany, Cuba and other destinations.

"Although there is no imminent or direct threat on any specific target, all our security measures are in place to guard vital facilities and infrastructures against any terrorist activity, and police units are on alert to respond to any contingency," Calderon said in a statement yesterday.

PNP ON FULL ALERT/ A8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: MICHAEL B. JAUCIAN

DEATH OF WHALE SHARK
Residents of Barangay Sto. Niño in Sangay, Camarines Sur, look at the lifeless body of a whale shark, locally known as butanding, which was trapped in a fish pen and killed by an unidentified man on Thursday. The whale shark, an attraction in Donsol, Sorsogon, was sighted in the area for the first time.

Court tells Petron to pay ₱580M for bogus tax credits

By Michelle V. Remo

OIL GIANT PETRON CORP. HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THI Court of Tax Appeals to pay almost P580.24 million in ex cise taxes and penalties to the Bureau of Internal Revenu for using fraudulently obtained tax credit certificate (TCCs) to pay its tax obligations from 1995 to 1997.

In a decision issued last Aug. 23 and released only yes terday, the CTA denied for lack of merit a petition for re view from Petron. The oil firm wanted the court to review the BIR's move to collect excise taxes and penalties from it

Petron had bought several TCCs from various garment companies owned by Faustino Chingkoe, a major suspec in the tax credit fraud scam of the mid-1990s. Governmen investigators alleged that 64 companies owned b

COURT/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/08/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Shariff Kabunsuan RP's 80th province

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—A NEW PROVINCE, THE COUNTRY'S 80th, will be added to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) if residents of at least 10 Maguindanao towns vote in favor of Muslim Mindanao Act 201, which creates the province of Shariff Kabunsuan.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan on Wednesday signed MMA 201, which is based on a bill passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) last week.

Shariff Kabunsun province will split Maguindanao into two and encompass the towns of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Kabuntalan, Upi, Sultan Kudarat, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Sultan Mastura, Parang, Buldon, Matanog and Barira.

Efforts to divide Maguindanao into two started in 2004 when Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan asked regional legislators to create a separate province that would accommodate the so-called Iranon areas.

Iranons, who speak a mixture of Maguindanaon and Maranao, have long wanted to have a separate province but past Maguindanao leaders did not yield to the clamor.

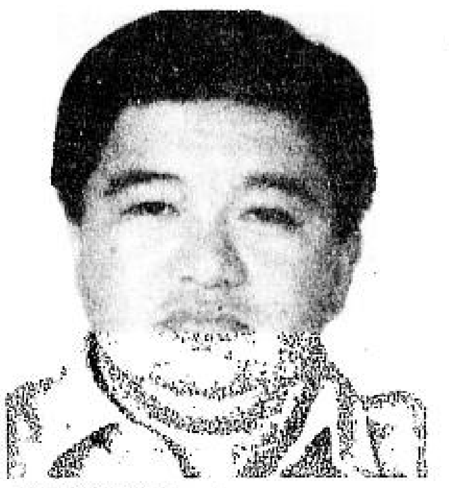
"There are other good leaders out there, I'm sure," Ampatuan said in the vernacular, after he finally approved the bill.

Under Republic Act 9054 or the Expanded Organic Act for Muslim Mindanao, the RLA has the power to create barangays, municipalities and provinces.

However, the proposal to create another political entity is subject to approval in a plebiscite.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) in the region said the plebiscite that will decide the fate of MMA 201, has yet to be scheduled but it could be within this year.

Maguindanao board member Paisalin Tago said the creation of Shariff Kabunsuan was "already a done deal." The plebiscite would only be a formality, he added.



ARMM GOV. Ampatuan

"The people in these areas supported the proposal during various public consultations held since 2004.

The elder Ampatuan said the division of the province into two would not only pave the way for faster development of Moro communities but also to develop more Moro leaders.

Norie Unas, Maguindanao provincial administrator, said they were told that the ARMM leadership has yet to decide on who would temporarily run the new province.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) announced it will hold a plebiscite on Sept. 13 to determine the acceptability of the creation of new barangays and another town in Maguindanao. The proposed new barangays are in the towns of Paglat and Barira; the planned new town is Datu Blah Sinsuat town, which will be carved out of Upi's 39 villages.

IN THE KNOW

AS OF JUNE 2006, THE PHILIPPINES is divided into 79 provinces in 17 regions, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board.

Zamboanga Sibugay became the country's 79th province by virtue of Republic Act 8973, which was signed into law in February 2001. Residents of Zamboanga del Sur had voted in a plebiscite to approve the creation of the province, in line with Article 10, Section 10 of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that, "No province, city, municipality, or barangay may be created, divided, merged, abolished, or its boundary substantially altered, except in accordance with the criteria established in the local government code and subject to approval by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite in the political units directly affected."

However, efforts at adding to this list have not stopped.

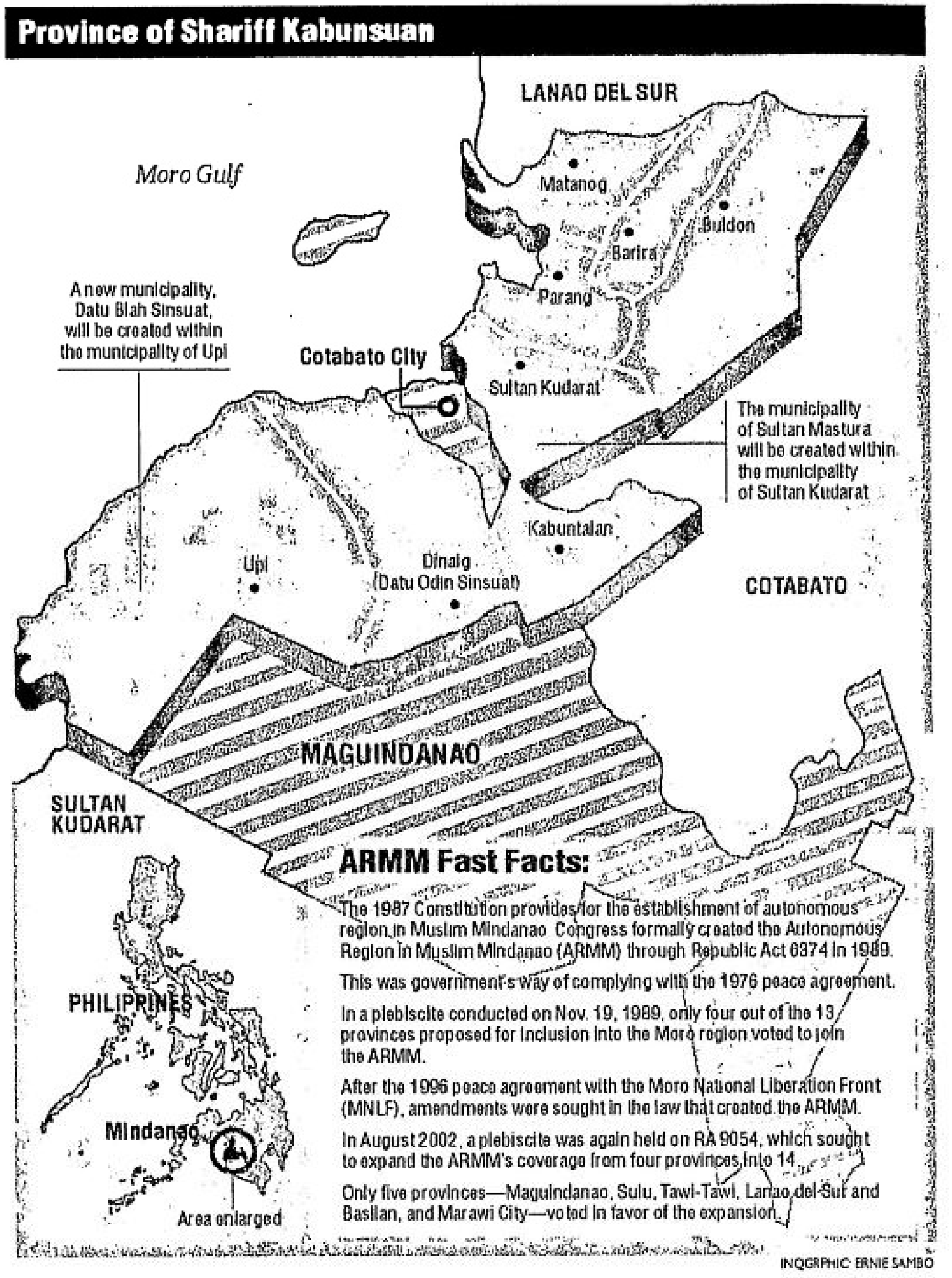
In January 2005, Cebu City Rep. Clavel Martinez of the province's fourth district filed House Bill 3657, which aimed to create Cebu del Norte. Two other Cebu solons followed suit. Rep. Antonio Yapha of the third district also filed HB 3632 to form Occidental Cebu, while Rep. Simeon Kintanar aimed to create a Cebu del Sur out of his present second district with his own HB 3733. All three representatives are serving their final terms.

Efforts to divide Cebu were opposed strongly by Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, the province's barangay leaders, and the League of Provinces of the Philippines itself.

Other attempts at adding more provinces include Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri's HB 4834, which aimed to create the province of Bukidnon del Sur and Rep. Glenda Ecleo's HB 884, which aimed to create the province of Dinagat Island. HB 2862, meanwhile, also aims to slice off a "Quezon del Sur" off Quezon, which will then be renamed, "Quezon del Norte."

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Province of Shariff Kabunsuan


LANAO DEL SUR
Moro Gulf
Matanog
Buldon
Barira
Parang
A new municipality, Datu Blah Sinsuat, will be created within the municipality of Upi
Cotabato City
Sultan Kudarat
The municipality of Sultan Mastura will be created within the municipality of Sultan Kudarat
Kabuntalan
Upi
Dinaig (Datu Odin Sinsuat)
COTABATO
MAGUINDANAO
SULTAN KUDARAT
PHILIPPINES
Mindanao
Area enlarged

ARMM Fast Facts:

The 1987 Constitution provides for the establishment of autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao. Congress formally created the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) through Republic Act 6374 in 1989.

This was government's way of complying with the 1976 peace agreement.

In a plebiscite conducted on Nov. 19, 1989, only four out of the 13 provinces proposed for inclusion into the Moro region voted to join the ARMM.

After the 1996 peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), amendments were sought in the law that created the ARMM.

In August 2002, a plebiscite was again held on RA 9054, which sought to expand the ARMM's coverage from four provinces into 14.

Only five provinces—Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Basilan, and Marawi City—voted in favor of the expansion.

INQGRPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

Gov't, Moro rebels fail to break talks deadlock

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have failed to break a deadlock over the economic control of land in peace talks held in Malaysia, both sides said Friday.

Government chief peace negotiator Silvestre Afable and his rebel counterpart Mohagher Iqbal had failed to resolve "differences" on the scope of "ancestral domain" claims, MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu told AFP.

Ancestral domain refers to traditional Islamic land on the main southern island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago whose resources the MILF want a share of.

The negotiators have already agreed on how to share earnings but the main stumbling block is the number of villages and towns covered by the ancestral domain claim, Kabalu said.

The MILF is claiming more than 1,000 parcels of land while the government is only considering around 600.

Kabalu said contacts would continue and both sides may conduct a joint survey to try for a compromise.

"We don't have dates yet but anything is still possible. This does not mean the end of the negotiations," he said.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said he had received word from Afable, on the roadblock in negotiations.

He said there was a "continuing impasse on the territorial issue" but agreed it was not a complete breakdown in the peace process.

"According to him, his panel will go back to the drawing board in consultation with some cabinet members to map out a fresh proposal to be tabled for the negotiations," Bunye said in a statement.

He said the government "acknowledges the difficulties involved" in trying to end the MILF's 28-year insurgency, but remains confident they "can be surmounted." *AFP*

GMA has 'no political will,' says rebel negotiator

MORO REBELS, DISAPPOINTED OVER THE lack of progress in peace negotiations yesterday accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of lacking sincerity to end the decades-old conflict in the south.

"GMA has no political will," Mohagher Iqbal, the rebels' chief negotiator, told Reuters in a mobile text message after talks in Malaysia ended on Thursday.

"The Philippine government has no new proposal on the issue of territory," Iqbal said.

But the Philippine government said the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) remained on track, describing the impasse as a temporary setback.

The MILF is the largest Muslim rebel group in the southern Philippines fighting for a separate homeland for decades.

"There is a continuing impasse on the territorial issue, but the talks did not break down as reported," Ignacio Bunye, a spokesman of President Arroyo, said in a statement. *REUTERS*

GMA, AFP top brass pay tribute to fallen Marines

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO AND top military officials yesterday paid their last respects to the Marines who were killed in a major battle with the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul, Sulu last Sept. 4. *(See photo on Page A3)*

The remains of five of the six Marines were brought to the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio yesterday, where they were given military honors.

The Marine Corps, which has six battalions in the thick of battle since Aug. 1 against followers of Abu Sayyaf leader Khaddafy Janjalani, vowed to avenge their comrades.

"We will pursue these terrorists relentlessly until we finish them off. Their days are numbered," Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga said during the wake held at the gym.

Ms Macapagal condoled with the families of Corporals Ryan Socrates and Judy Gatan, and Privates First Class Isagani Zamora, Jayson Paiton, and Harold Almodovar.

She handed each family a mass card as she approached each of the five flag-draped coffins.

The remains of Private First Class Gilbert Parcia were brought to his hometown in Cotabato City.

With Ms Macapagal were Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga and Allaga.

It was Ms Arroyo's first visit to the Marine headquarters since the Feb. 26 stand-off, wherein a group of Marines hinted that they had been used to cheat in the 2004 presidential elections.

On Sept. 4, a large group of Abu Sayyaf rebels believed to be with Janjalani clashed with 27 Marines from the elite Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion in Barangay Tugas in Patikul, Sulu.

Despite being greatly outnumbered, the Marines fought with 100 to 200 rebels for three hours until reinforcements arrived. Six of the Marines were killed and 19 were wounded.

Aside from the six Marine battalions, three Army battalions, four Scout Ranger companies and lately, another battalion from the Army Special Forces are in Sulu trying to hunt down Janjalani and other top Abu Sayyaf leaders, as well as two Jemaah Islamiyah militants believed to be with them.

"We are ready however long it takes. It can take a month, two months, or a year. The important thing is we catch Janjalani and the foreigners," Esperon said yesterday.

The Navy, meanwhile, has deployed radar-equipped ships and patrol crafts to circle the island province to prevent the rebels from escaping to nearby islands.

"It will be hard for them to escape from Sulu," Mayuga said.

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1 of 110 Dropside Cargos
FUSO 6W, 8-Stud Cargo
1 of 110 Dropside Cargos
ISUZU Elf Dropside, Late Model
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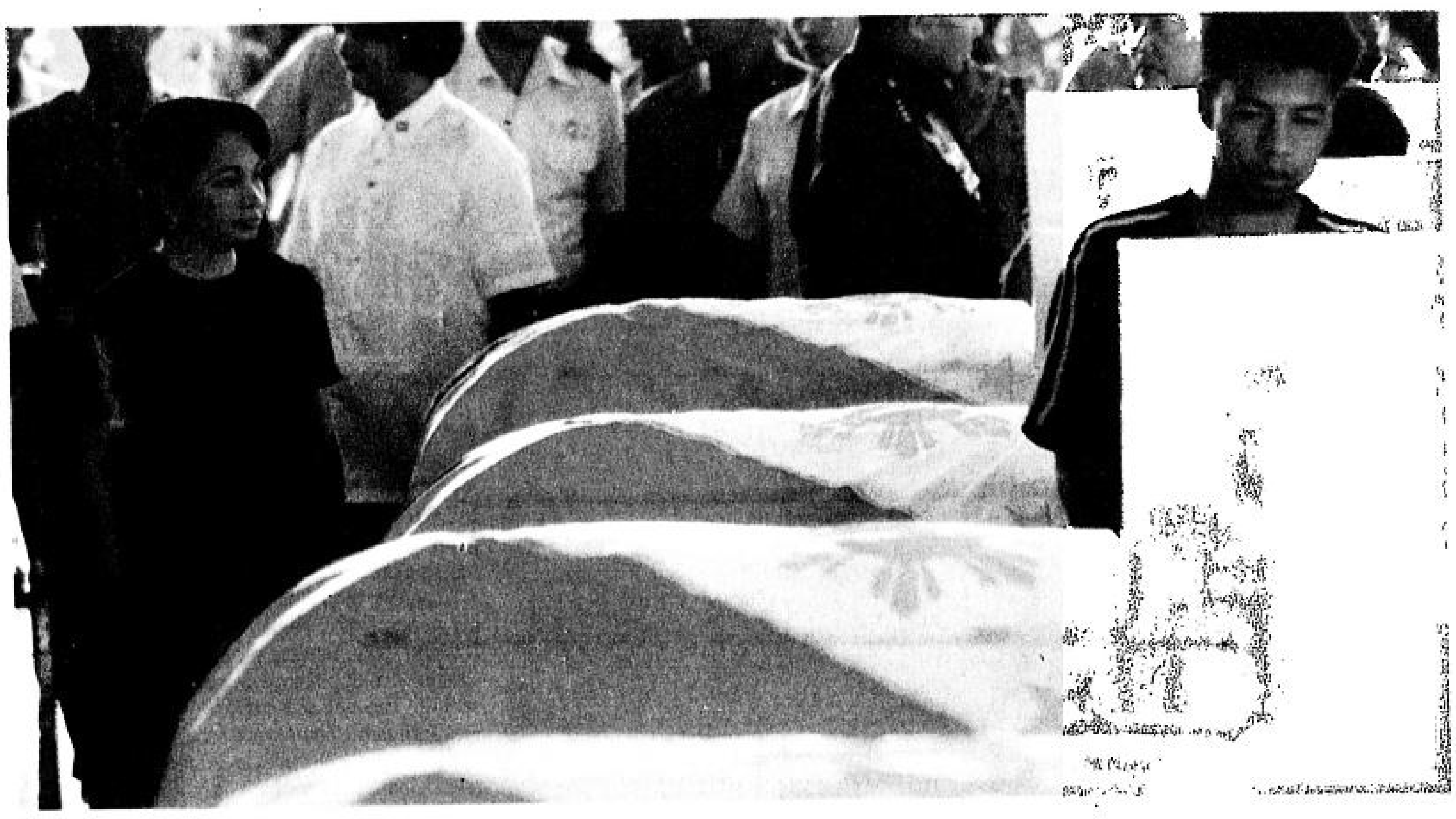
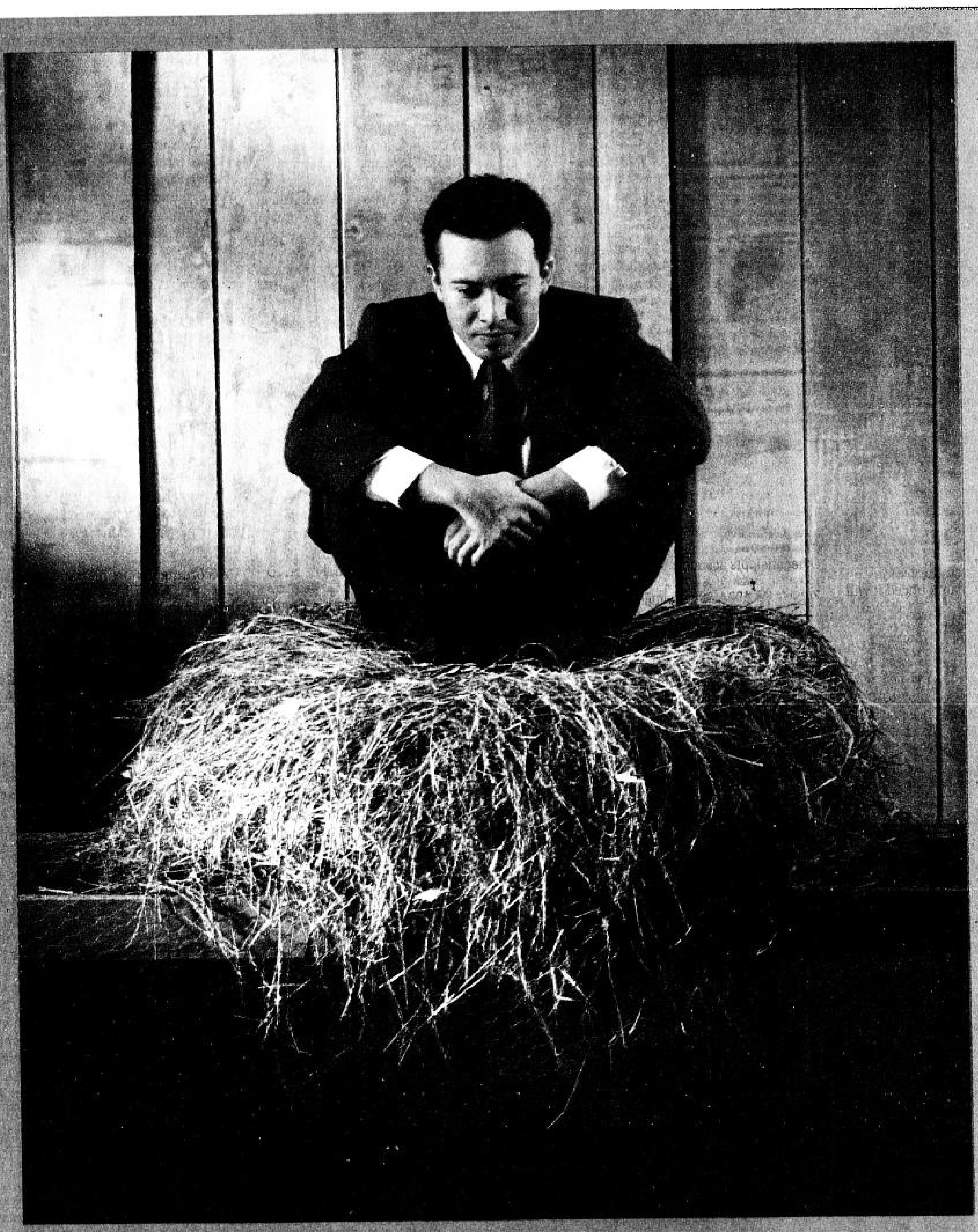


FALLEN WARRIORS President Macapagal-Arroyo visits the wake of five Marine soldiers killed in an encounter with al Qaida-linked militants in Patikul, Sulu on Monday. *(See story on Page A2)* The remains of the sixth casualty have been turned over to his family in Cotabato City.

REM ZAMORA



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Police eye NPA angle in leftist killing

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—LIKE OTHER killings where the victims are militants, authorities are looking into the possibility that Bohol militant leader Victor Olayvar was killed on Thursday by the New People's Army (NPA) on suspicion he was a "double agent."

Senior Supt. Arturo Evangelista, chief of the Bohol Provincial Police Office, claimed that based on intelligence information received by the police, Olayvar was identified as an NPA member.

Evangelista, discounting the possibility of military involvement, said police were focusing on reports the assassin was out to avenge the death of a relative killed in an NPA purge in which Olyavar was allegedly involved; or that Olayvar himself was a victim of the purge for getting friendly with the authorities.

Olayvar, 41, a native of Cabiguan, Trinidad town, was provincial chair of Bayan-Muna -Bohol.

But John Ruiz III, Bayan Muna-Bohol provincial vice chair and a member of the human rights group Karapatan, immediately debunked Evangelista's claim and slammed the police for immediately pointing to the NPA as the culprit and "scapegoat" in Olayvar's killing.

Ruiz said they have information since June that Olayvar along with Felipineri Beljasa, William Boybanting and Tomasa Santos, all Bayan Muna members, had been placed in the military's Order of Battle and subject for "neutralization."

"We insist that the military especially the Charlie Company of the 15th Infantry Division is behind the murder. It's part of the thrust to neutralize those who are vocal against the administration," Ruiz said.

Olayvar was shot dead by gunmen on board motorcycles near a bailey bridge in Danao town, about 94 km from Tagbilaran City, early Thursday morning.

Olayvar bore two gunshot wounds, one on his neck and another on his right breast. He was rushed to the Dagohoy District Hospital in neighboring Inabanga town where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police recovered four caliber .45 empty shells from the crime scene along with three deformed slugs.

With a report from Chito Fuentes, Inquirer Visayas

Suspected gunman of ex-governor charged

By Jhunnex Napallacan, Jolene Bulambot and Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—MURDER charges were filed yesterday against the suspected gunman of former Biliran governor Danilo Parilla who was killed as he was disembarking from an inter-island vessel at a Cebu City port Thursday.

Eugenio Corpin, 56, now in police custody, was charged with murder based on affidavits of least four witnesses, including an eyewitness who said she saw Corpin shoot the former governor in the head at close range as he was stepping off the ship shortly past 5 a.m.

Insp. Orlando Metante, chief of the Cebu City Police Office's homicide division, said eyewitness Marilyn Tagal, 28, said she was right behind Parilla and his wife Susan in the passageway leading to the gangplank when the suspect overtook her and pushed her aside.

Metante said they were securing Tagal, who had expressed concern for her safety, and would consider admitting her to the witness protection program.

Police also believe that there may be other people involved in the murder plot.

Parilla's body, accompanied by his wife and three children, left last night for Naval on board the same vessel, MV Cagayan Princess, where he was slain. His remains will arrive today at the family's home.

In Naval, the capital town of Biliran, Gov. Rogelio Espina ordered all government offices to fly the flag at half-mast.

Investigators say a personal grudge appeared to be the motive behind the killing, although they are not discounting the possibility that politics was also involved.

IRRIGATION CHIEF
President Macapagal-Arroyo administers oath of office to former PNP chief Arturo Lomibao as the new NIA Administrator in Malacanang Friday. INQUIRER PHOTO/LYN RILLON

GMA leaves for 9-day trip to Europe, Cuba, Hawaii

By Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO LEAVES today for a five-nation trip to promote the economic, security and diplomatic interests of the country with "important allies across the globe."

The President is traveling with a lean delegation that includes Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, eight congressmen and two provincial governors, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

During the next nine days, Ms Arroyo is scheduled to go to Finland, Belgium, United Kingdom, Cuba and Hawaii.

"It is important for our people to appreciate the fact that the fate of our nation is increasingly tied to our role in the world. We need foreign markets for our goods and services, close association with foreign governments on matters of security to fight terrorism and greater advances with all nations to build a stronger multilateral global order," the President said in a departure speech released by Bunye's office yesterday.

"It is with renewed confidence that I set sail on this very important mission," Ms Arroyo said, adding that the country's economy was strong, its politics, stable, and its democracy, vibrant.

The eight congressmen accompanying the President are: Antonio Alvarez, Nanette Castelo-Diaz, Consuelo Dy, Benasing Macarambon Jr., Corazon Malanyaon, Monico Puentevella, Danilo Suarez, Amelita Villarosa.

The two governors were Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar and Adolph Edward Plaza of Agusan del Sur.

The Cabinet members accompanying Ms Arroyo include: Bunye, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, and Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Also joining the delegation are: Ambassador to Sweden Victoria Bataclan and Foreign Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio.

The President will head first to Helsinki, Finland, to attend the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem).

On her first day there, Ms Arroyo is expected to sign the much-awaited Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement with Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi, according to Bunye.

Casiño files P20-M libel suit vs Esperon, Palparan

By Norman Bordadora

BAYAN MUNA REP. TEODORO CASIÑO yesterday filed a P20-million libel suit against then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who alleged that Casiño had addressed a meeting of New People's Army cadres in 2005.

Esperon, then Philippine Army commanding general, and Palparan, then 7th Infantry Division commander, presented a video of Casiño speaking before an audience in a rural setting. The generals reportedly said Casiño was addressing communist rebels.

"The video is actually an edited version of a talk I gave at the solidarity night marking the end of the Tacloban-Catarman Peace Caravan last March 9, 2005," said the partylist representative.

"The statements of Generals Esperon and Palparan were utter falsehoods maliciously meant to defame me, tarnish my reputation and honor and make me vulnerable to harassment, intimidation and assassination," he added.

Casiño said the video footage that Esperon and Palparan showed had been edited to make it appear that he was a Communist Party of the Philippines leader meeting with armed partisans of the communist movement.

"The footages were falsely and maliciously presented as footages of a meeting I had with members of the New People's Army and the CPP when, in fact, no such 'secret meeting' took place," Casiño said.

"If the tape were indeed authentic, why did they not include the tape as evidence in the rebellion case filed against me?" he added.

Casiño said he was in Samar on March 9, 2005, attending a dialogue with the military because of reports that extra-judicial killings and abductions in the area were at an all-time high since Palparan assumed his post in eastern Visayas in February of the same year.

Aside from libel, Casiño also charged the two generals of abuse of authority.

"I really wanted to file the case before Palparan retired. He committed libel when he was a general. He should be tried before the Ombudsman," he added.

Van driver in Subic rape case gets 'reprieve'; judge to wait for CA ruling

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AS A MATTER OF COURTESY TO A HIGHER court, a Makati judge has deferred ruling on the reinstatement of a van driver as the fifth accused in the celebrated Subic rape case filed by a Filipino woman against four American Marines.

Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Benjamin Pozon, in a two-page order released yesterday, held in abeyance the court's resolution on a motion of state prosecutors to again include Timoteo Soriano Jr. as an accused in the case.

Without discussing the motion's merits, Pozon said he would defer his judgment until the Court of Appeals rules on a similar petition by private prosecutors questioning Soriano's discharge from the case and seeking his reinstatement.

Soriano's lawyer, Jose Raulito Paras, considered the order, dated Sept. 5, a "partial victory."

"The court, in a way, granted our position that it must await the appellate court's resolution on the private prosecution's pending petition before deciding on the reinstatement motion," said Paras.

"That is the most prudent position for the court. For us, the [order] was an exercise of judicial courtesy... effectively denying the reinstatement motion because the court will await the resolution from the Court of Appeals," Paras said in a phone interview.

State prosecutors want Soriano to be again included as one of the accused in the Subic rape case, citing a resolution by the Department of Justice which upheld probable cause against him. The resolution was a result of a preliminary investigation ordered by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

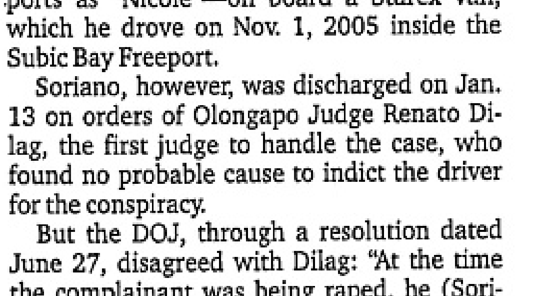
The driver was initially charged as a co-conspirator of Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis, Keith Silkwood and Daniel Smith in allegedly raping a Filipino woman—identified in media reports as "Nicole"—on board a Starex van, which he drove on Nov. 1, 2005 inside the Subic Bay Freeport.

Soriano, however, was discharged on Jan. 13 on orders of Olongapo Judge Renato Dilag, the first judge to handle the case, who found no probable cause to indict the driver for the conspiracy.

But the DOJ, through a resolution dated June 27, disagreed with Dilag: "At the time the complainant was being raped, he (Soriano) was driving the van in very low gear to give more opportunity to his co-conspirator to perpetrate his evil desire. Clearly, his participation was not merely companionship."

Alleging that he had been coerced, Soriano recanted a statement where he said he witnessed the gang rape inside the Starex van, and that he drove slowly as Smith allegedly raped Nicole while the three others cheered him on.

The trial against the US Marines is set to resume on Monday, with the defense panel starting the presentation of witnesses. The prosecution presented 23 witnesses before resting on Aug. 17.



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Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page story—"Recruitment firm hits back at 28 RP nurses"—misstated that Elmer Jacinto, one of the Filipino nurses who complained about Sentosa Recruitment Agency, was a licensed doctor who took up nursing. Nursing was Jacinto's pre-med course.

The same article misstated Jacinto topped the nursing board exam in 2004. He topped the medical board exam that year.

In the same issue, an article published on Page A17 of the Metro section—"FG files libel raps vs PDI"—misstated the surname of Bandera's publisher. It should have read Eileen Mangubat—not Manguiat.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a story on Page A13—"Sulu death breaks 2 Marines' bonding"—misspelled the surname of one of the fatalities in the encounter between Abu Sayyaf bandits and the Marines. The soldier's name is Harold Almodovar—not Almodobar.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Ombudsman to probe nursing exam leak

By Norman Bordadora and Margaux C. Ortiz

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERday formed a five-man team to look into the culpability of government officials allegedly involved in the leakage of test questions and answers in the June 2006 Nursing Licensure Examination.

Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez Gutierrez named overall deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro as chair of the panel, and Director Susan Guillermo as its vice chair. Its members include Director Eulogio Cecilio and lawyers Mary Antonette Yalao and Silverio Manuel Jr.

Gutierrez formed the team after the National Bureau of Investigation recommended on Thursday the filing of charges against former Board of Nursing members Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja for their alleged involvement in the leakage.

Dionisio and Madeja were found to have violated Republic Act 8981 or the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) Modernization Act of 2000 and Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, according to NBI Anti Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) chief Elfren Meneses Jr.

Casimiro said the panel would evaluate the documents submitted by the NBI to determine whether a fact-finding investigation would still have to be done or to proceed immediately with preliminary investigation.

The NBI conducted its investigation of the nursing exams leak based on the complaint of the PRC.

In its transmittal form sent to the Ombudsman, the NBI said that one of the sources of the leakages, which came out days before the exams, was identified to be the manuscript of Dionisio.

Dionisio's manuscript, showing handwritten corrections of the former BON member, contained 495 questions which came out in the last nursing board exams with answers similar to the actual answers given to the PRC.

"Further, it was noted that it was only during the investigation before the BON and the Committee that Dionisio gave alibis of the original manuscript's loss despite having no indication or proof of its loss," the NBI said.

Madeja, on the other hand, said the release of the Test III materials, which she prepared, "must have been facilitated when she went to a computer shop to have her questions photocopied there."

Madeja also alleged that she noticed that somebody was watching her while the materials were being photocopied and left the place to secure the papers.

According to Madeja, being a new member of the BON, she was not aware that people along the PRC streets "are eager catchers of anything they can make money of especially materials from the Board."

The NBI, however, said that Madeja's claims were "totally unbelievable."

"She could have easily secured the reproduction of documents to avoid the prying eyes of the public," the NBI said.

Two review centers reportedly obtained the leaked questions and answers for Tests III (medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing) and shared them with their students during a two-day final coaching session. The session was also attended by a number of nursing school deans.

The six-member BON prepares the questions for the nursing board exams. Its other members are Eufemia Octaviano (chair), Remedios Fernandez, Estelita Galutira and Letty Kuan.

Still no jobs for new nurses

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—NURSING GRADUATES WHO passed the controversial 2006 Nursing Licensure Examinations have complained that various hospitals and medical centers here have turned down their application for work.

Other nursing board passers, who talked to the INQUIRER, said they were told their application might still be considered if the controversy, sparked by the supposed leak of test questions, had already been resolved.

"I already submitted my application to several hospitals (Davao City), but was told that they will hold it in abeyance until the issue is resolved," Richard Caballero, a graduate of the Davao Doctors College, said.

The controversy still hounds the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Board of Nursing.

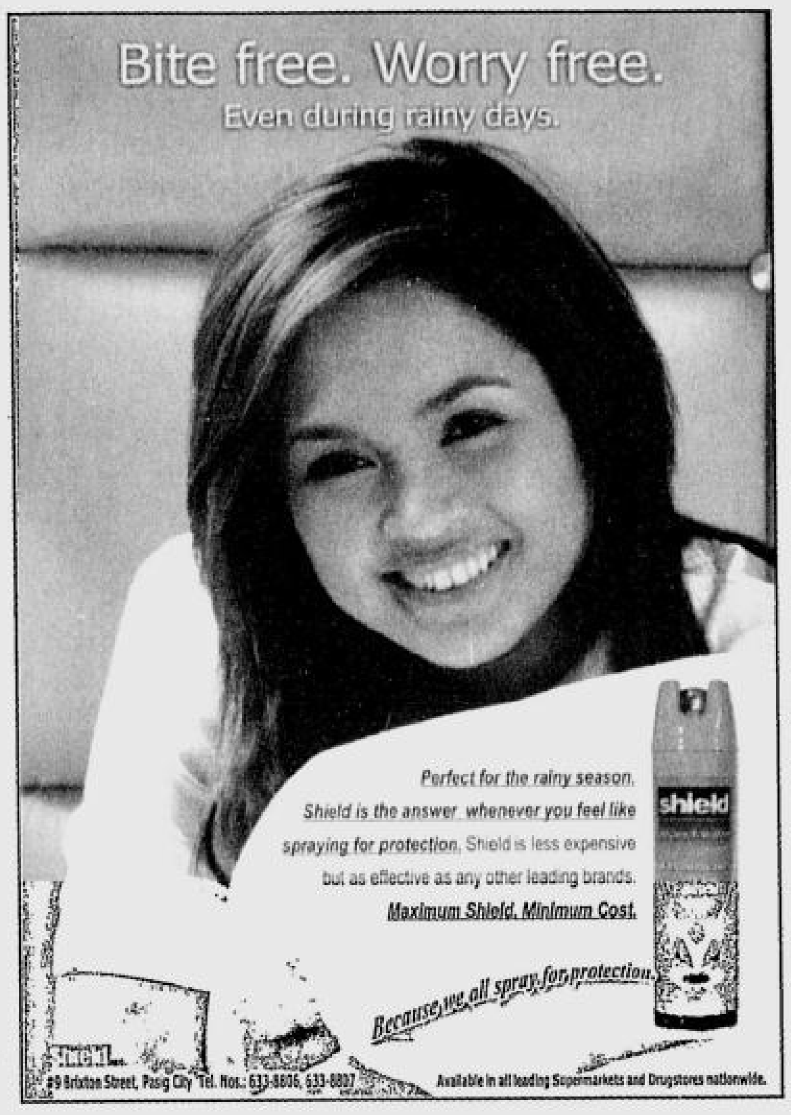
Various sectors said a retake should be necessary to eliminate doubts on the integrity of the exams.

But nursing graduates, backed by their parents and the Philippine Nursing Association (PNA) in Southern Mindanao, said they toiled and passed the exams squarely.

They are now asking the court to lift the temporary restraining order (TRO) that has prevented them from taking their oath.

The oath-taking ceremonies are the final rites before a nurse could practice the profession in the country.

Caballero said he passed the exams not because of any leak but as a result of diligently studying through the years.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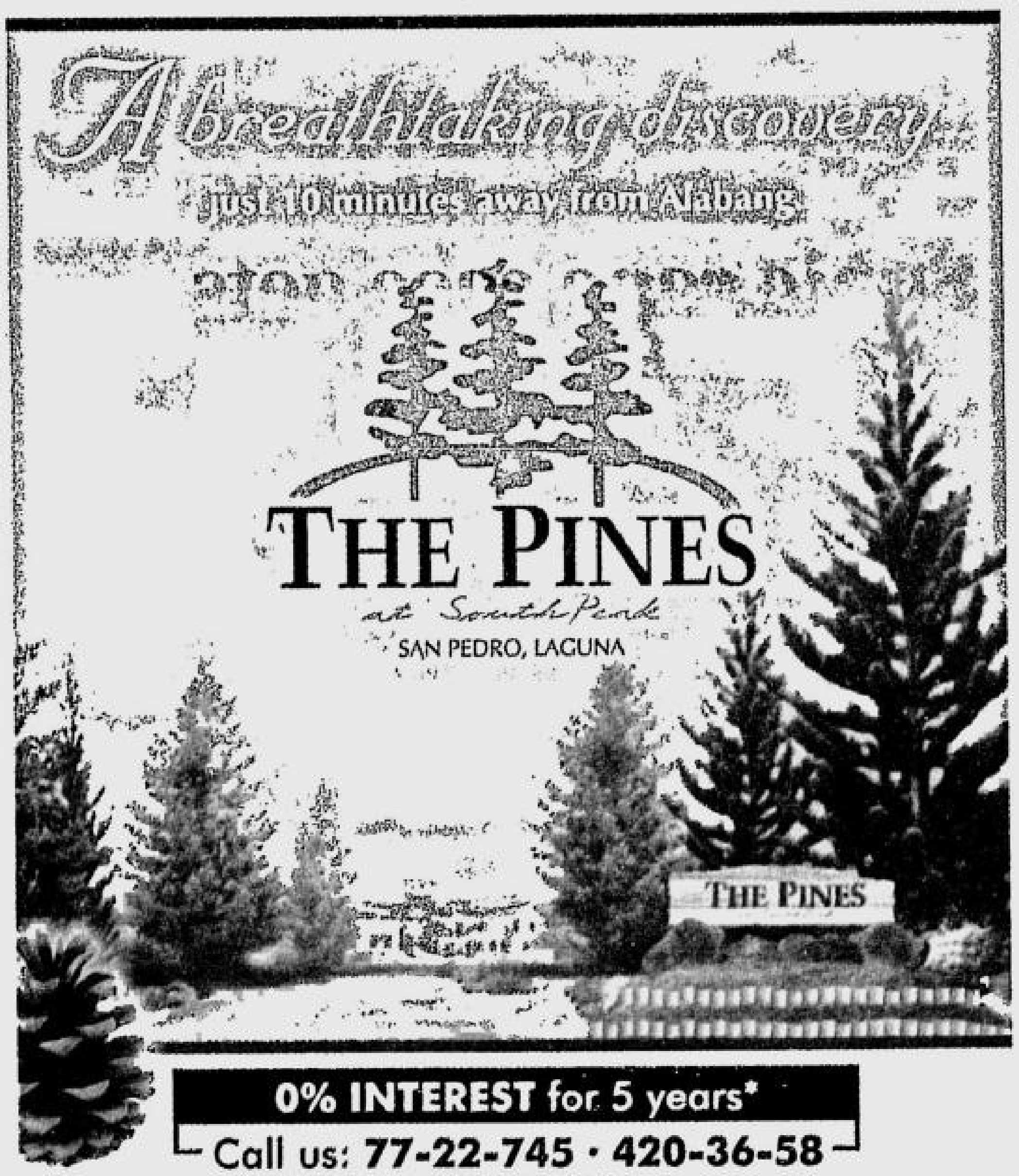
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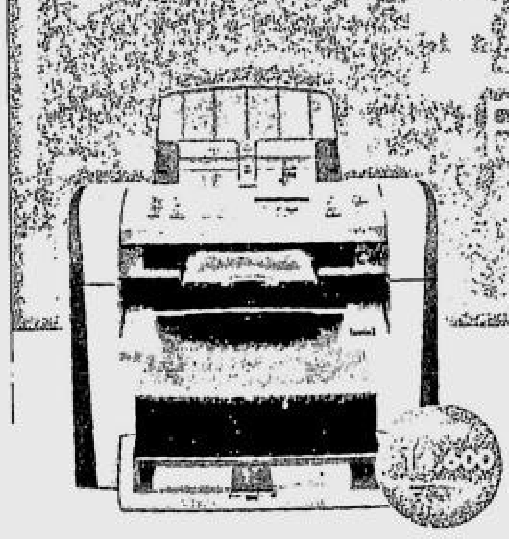
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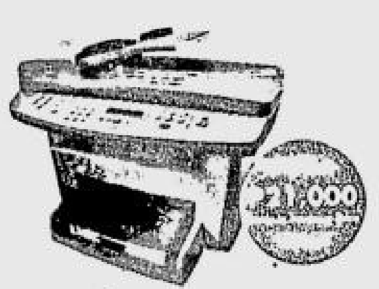
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'Bomber' recants, denies airport test

From page A1

they were not aware of any such security slip-up but said such a test would be unauthorized. As airlines expressed concern, airport officials announced they were stepping up security.

Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon said soon after the story came out that it was "an eye-opener" on the need for reviewing security measures. Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said the antiterror expert should be given a medal for exposing security weaknesses.

Days later, officials in charge of security said the story never happened, identified Macariola as the man involved and said he could be held criminally liable.

On Wednesday, after initially saying that Ms Arroyo was willing to meet with the expert, Malacañang said the incident had tarnished the country's reputation and said the man should be charged criminally.

Highest clearance

Macariola is a firearms and security expert and consultant of Duterte.

Duterte was quoted by a Davao newspaper last week as saying there was an explanation for what happened but that it needed clearance from "the highest authority."

Macariola said that his job was to train security personnel in private companies and public corporations in detecting explosives.

He said the airport x-ray machines detected no explosives on his person "because (the materials I brought in) were not real."

"If you try to bring in fakes, that's a useless training. I didn't bring these to test airport security ... They (the materials) were on my person. But these are not illegal. Clay is not illegal."

Macariola also said that "this whole thing is blown out of proportion. No word can described the damage it has done to my name. It has destroyed my world."

The Inquirer story did not mention his name. It was, in fact, security officials who had revealed his identity to reporters.

Macariola did admit that he met with Arlyn dela Cruz, who he said was a friend of a friend.

"She told me she was looking for a story. I told her about the training module but she seemed to have assumed these things really happened. It was not a test," he said. He said he showed some training videos to Dela Cruz.

Recommendations sent

He added that he did send Dela Cruz some of his recommendations on beefing up airport security.

Macariola claimed he never talked to Dela Cruz on doing the story and expressed ignorance where the reporter got her facts.

In the radio interview, Macariola denied that he had hidden the "fake" materials in his jacket or in the sole of his shoe. He said he simply checked them in.

Asked what took him a long time to come out with his denial, Macariola said: "In my kind of work, you do not just go to media and correct (stories)."

He said he would appear before the National Bureau of Investigation possibly on Monday to "clear his name."

NBI steps in

Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, said his office had issued a subpoena requiring Macariola to appear before the bureau on Sept. 13 to explain his motives for conducting the reported test.

Esmeralda told reporters in Filipino: "We want to find out what his motives were in disclosing his activities. Was it personal or malicious?"

Subpoena sent

"He caused public alarm by bringing explosives inside the aircraft," Esmeralda said.

The NBI official said the bureau sent the subpoena to Macariola's address in Karuhatan, Valenzuela City.

Esmeralda also said that the NBI would be summoning personnel of the Aviation Security Group who were on duty during the time of the incident.

"We have to find out Macariola's flight details and who was manning the X-ray machine at that time," Esmeralda said.

He said Macariola had taught at the NBI Academy as a part-time lecturer on firearms.

"He may be an expert in ballistics, but definitely not on explosives and antiterrorism measures," Esmeralda added. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*

I stand by the story, a risk worth taking

From page A1

out asking for anything in return—not even recognition.

But he was not to remain long in the shadows.

The man I am referring to is Sam Macariola, a man who tested his own "limits" and risked his reputation, not to tarnish the image of his country or of its security forces but simply to prove a point: The need to outsmart terrorists.

The "security test" which Macariola told me and others about was conducted, he said, soon after British police last month uncovered a plot to bomb US-bound airplanes in the air involving alleged use of liquid bombs.

"What if that's what the terrorists wanted everyone to think? What if they are confusing everyone, even the most powerful countries in the world, like the United States and Great Britain, (into thinking) that they have developed a sophisticated liquid bomb when in fact, they have not?"

That was Macariola's theory, which became the basis for the "mission" he soon carried out on a flight from Manila to Davao last Aug. 14.

Macariola used a PowerPoint presentation to drive home his point. The presentation included the most thought-provoking video I had come across as a journalist, matching the videos of the actual beheading of hostage victims I had seen in the many years that I covered Mindanao.

MACARIOLA: "I did not carry live explosives."

Point of the test

To test the security setup, the scenario must entail the use of real bomb components, and that was very clear in Macariola's explanation to me.

The only missing part, he said so in his PPP, was the actual mixing of the components and the push of the detonating device.

Why did you use real explosives, what if you get caught? I asked.

"That's how it is," he said, in Filipino. "I really wanted to know. How can I help determine the right countermeasures if I would not know for myself that I can get past them?"

Most disturbing

The most disturbing statement he gave that night was that "It was like a walk in the park."

Later, Macariola showed me what he said he did as he entered the airport on the day of his test and after he boarded his flight.

I met Sam Macariola through a longtime friend, Daniel "Snooky" Cruz, a source who, in the past, had given me exclusive leads on stories not normally released to the media.

Snooky has not failed me all these years.

"You should see Sam's video, I don't want to describe it but you can judge for yourself what it means and its implications," read one of Snooky's text messages to me.

Mind-boggling

Snooky knew that I was doing a story on airport security as a follow-up report on the global terror alert raised in London.

Snooky was right. The video-clip played on Macariola's laptop was mind-boggling.

I agreed with him that it was a video worth airing but one that must not be shown to the public, in the interest of national security.

I decided not to press him for a copy, subsuming my instincts as a journalist to get one.

In the days that followed, other stories distracted my attention.

But the airport security test story Macariola gave me pestered in my mind.

I was bothered by the fact that I knew the video was not only newsworthy but was something that could actually spur the necessary action to implement innovative counterterrorism measures.

> 'Why did you use real explosives? What if you get caught?' I asked.
>
> 'That's how it is. I really wanted to know. How can I determine the right countermeasures if I would not know myself that I can get past them?'

I am a journalist and as a journalist, it is my job to question, to expose, to investigate, to inform and enlighten the people.

Should I let go of this story and not tell people about it?

Macariola made the decision easy for me. He did not object to my request that I write about what I saw on the video, stressing that the story would highlight the recommendations that he gave after the "test" was conducted.

He obliged by sending me via SMS his recommendations.

It took me less than 30 minutes to finish my draft of the story which I had been composing in my mind for days.

After finishing the draft, I called Macariola on a landline he gave me and read to him what I had written: A scenario of "what ifs..."

Anonymous source

It did not carry his name and referred to him only as a security and antiterrorism expert.

He posed no objections while I was reading the draft to him.

I wrote it in a feature style, hoping it would not sound so alarming.

Macariola asked: "When will that come out?"

I was relieved by the fact that he was satisfied with how I wrote the story, not mentioning the names of other people involved.

No lies, Sam

I told him that was up to the editors: They might or might not use it at all.

When I submitted the draft story, there was no indication that it would be treated as a big story.

The only thing they asked me, which I believe is normal procedure in any newsroom, was who was my source. I was also asked some other minor details I had left out in my draft.

I did not lie to Macariola about this. I told him I had to reveal his identity to the INQUIRER editorial people, as well as other details which he had specifically asked me not to mention in the draft that I wrote.

Sam was agitated on the phone. *"Eh di kilala na nila ako, sabi ko protektahan mo ako, patay na ako niyan, paano ka nakakasigurong di lalabas ang pangalan ko* (So they know me. I told you to protect me. Now I am dead. How can I be sure that my name will not be published)?"

When will it appear?

I was at first told the story would come out on a Wednesday. When it did not hit the pages of the INQUIRER, Macariola even asked me, both through text and phone calls, why it has not appeared yet.

It seemed clear he wanted the story to come out, given the follow-up messages and calls from him before the story finally appeared under a banner headline of this paper last Friday.

I was curious by one statement he gave me but one which I did not quiz him about.

Sam told me: *"Humahanap din ako ng ibang paraan kung paano mailabas ang istoryang ito* (I had been thinking of other ways to get the story out)."

I only got a confirmation that the story would be used when I was called to the PDI office in Makati to help in the graphics-illustration that would go with the story.

Flurry of denials

Later, a colleague texted me and said my story had appeared as a banner, complete with graphics. The friend told me to buy a hundred copies of the paper.

Macariola saw the story after it was mentioned by ABS-CBN.

As the story triggered both denials and confirmation from varied sources, Macariola told me in Filipino: "Arlyn, you ruined my life."

To that, I say: Sam, you are right, this was a test of the spirit. How you will face it is entirely up to you.

You may say that you do not know me and you may now talk like the others who claim that you only used a "dummy" and "clay." But didn't you yourself tell me and other people that that would have been pointless to really test the nation's security capability?

But in the end, you know the truth and you know why you did it.

Love for truth

As I told you that night, "Sam, *mahal mo ang bansa mo, ikinagagalak kitang maging kaibigan* (You love your country, I am glad you are my friend)."

I wrote the story and submitted it to the INQUIRER for editorial judgment, because like you, we love this country of ours and remain committed to performing our duty as members of the media—to report the truth.

After the article came out in the INQUIRER, several officials in government called me, some asking questions, others practically confirming the truth of the story that the INQUIRER carried as a banner.

One message went this way: "They are giving calculated responses because any slip would be a confirmation of your story. *Mag-ingat ka, baka lalo kang pag-initan* (Be careful, they might really put the heat on you)."

If Sam took a risk, I also did. It was a risk worth taking, for it was in the name of the truth.

Court tells Petron to pay ₱580M for bogus tax credits

From page A1

Chingkoe obtained through fraudulent means 1,652 TCCs worth about P5.3 billion.

The Chingkoe firms implicated in the fraudulent grant of tax refunds included Diamond Knitting, Filstar Textile Industrial, Alliance Thread Co., Fiber Tech Corp., Jantex Philippines, Master Colour System. Petron used the TCCs it bought from some of these firms to pay its tax obligations.

When the TCCs were later found to have been fraudulent, it led to large revenue losses for the BIR. The revenue agency then moved to collect taxes from Petron and other companies found to have used fraudulent TCCs to pay their tax obligations.

Sold at discount

Tax credits are essentially refund payments that certain export companies are allowed to claim for duties they pay on imported materials that are used to manufacture products for export. Instead of a cash refund, the government issues tax credit certificates (TCCs) which companies can use to settle their tax obligations. The companies are also allowed to sell the TCCs to other companies.

The ease with which TCCs could be transferred created a lucrative secondary market which large companies exploited to file large tax credit claims, involving the submission of fake documents.

Some companies obtained from this secondary market fraudulent TCCs which were sold to them at discounts ranging from 5 to 30 percent.

Investigators said some oil companies were the biggest transferees and buyers of fraudulent TCCs which they used to settle their tax obligations.

Using TCCs it bought from other companies, Petron settled its tax obligations with the BIR in November 1999. After the TCCs were found to be fraudulent, the BIR demanded that Petron pay a total of P651.33 million in deficiency taxes, which include P142.19 million in surcharges and P224.75 million in penalties.

Petron argued in its defense that the TCCs it had bought had been issued by the One Stop Shop Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS), the finance department's tax credit unit. Therefore, it said it should not be made to pay the taxes and made to suffer for the tax credit fraud.

Petron brought the case to the CTA in August 2000 after the BIR refused to accept its argument.

Victory for BIR

The CTA decided in favor of the BIR, and ordered Petron to pay the deficiency excise taxes and penalties. Instead of the P651.33 million demanded by the BIR, the CTA said Petron should pay only P580.24 million.

The P580.24 million comprises P284.39 million in basic tax, 20-percent interest amounting to P224.75 million, and a 25-percent surcharge amounting to P71.08 million.

The CTA also asked Petron to pay a 20-percent delinquency interest per annum, on top of the P580.24 million, computed from December 1999. The coverage period starts in December 1999 because the BIR collected the tax from Petron in November 1999.

The case against Petron is the second victory for the BIR involving TCCs.

Last May, the CTA ordered Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., another oil major, to pay a total of P570 million in deficiency taxes to the BIR, also for having paid taxes using fraudulent TCCs.

Was Solar I overloaded? Probe finds differing computations

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SPECIAL BOARD OF MARINE inquiry has found differing computations on exactly how big a load the Solar I, the oil tanker that sank off the coast of Guimaras and unleashed a massive oil spill last month, was allowed to carry, with the government's estimate tending to be on the liberal side.

The SBMI, which is looking into the cause of the vessel's sinking and the liability of the parties involved, learned that the Solar I had exceeded its load limit when it left Bataan for Zamboanga last Aug. 9.

According to SBMI member Commodore Benjamin Mata, the state-run Maritime Industry Authority's (Marina) computation of the freeboard was lower than that given by the privately run, French-based Bureau Veritas classification society.

The freeboard refers to the distance between the main deck of the vessel and the portion of it that is level with the water line. A higher freeboard figure means there should be less load on the vessel.

The Bureau Veritas calculated that the 998-ton Solar I had a maximum summer freeboard of 1,220 millimeters.

The Marina issued a certification, which it got from Augusto Suzara Inc., that the Solar I had a freeboard of 700 millimeters.

According to Mata, this meant that in the government certification, the vessel was allowed a bigger displacement so that the freeboard was reduced from 1,200 millimeters to 700 millimeters, thus allowing the ship to carry more cargo.

He said the Solar I had apparently followed the government's certification.

Maritime officials have explained that the greater the portion of the vessel underwater, the less stable it becomes.

Mata said that based on the Bureau Veritas calculation, the dead weight for the tanker would be 1,700 tons. But if the Marina certification is followed, the Solar I's dead weight tonnage would be 2,200, indicating a discrepancy of 500 tons.

The dead weight tonnage refers to the maximum weight of the vessel, including its cargo and ballast. The higher the dead weight, the more load it can carry.

The SBMI also learned that the Solar I was carrying a load that was in excess of what it was allowed when it left Bataan as indicated by its draft, or the distance between the waterline and the bottom of the ship. A longer draft indicates extra weight on the ship.

Mata said that documents that the board had obtained showed that the Solar I should have had a draft of 4.85 meters, but it had a draft of 5.1 meters when it set sail. The draft is indicated by a ball called the plimsol mark.

"So they can't deny that there was extra load," he said.

The Solar I tanker sank off Guimaras on Aug. 11. At the time, it was carrying 2.1 million liters of oil, most of which have spilled, affecting the waters and coasts of Guimaras and Iloilo.

When asked about the discrepancy in the freeboard computation, Marina naval architect Danny Reyes had no explanation. But he said the Marina had used international conventions to compute the freeboard. He said he was not the one who did the computation.

Asked which of the two freeboard computations was correct, Mata said the board was still trying to find that out. He said the board has to ascertain whether there were rules unique to the Philippines that may have affected the calculations made by Augusto Suzara Inc.

But he said the Bureau Veritas and Augusto Suzara should have arrived at the same number if they were using the same rules.

Meanwhile, Mata said the board was looking into the possibility that there may have been a "chartering bonus" involved in the Solar I debacle.

He said it was not unusual in the shipping trade for a bonus to be given a ship's captain or crew for taking on extra cargo for the charterer, without the authorities' or tanker owners' knowledge.

Yesterday's hearing also made much of a triangular hole found on the ship's port bow side which investigators said could have been caused by another vessel ramming the tanker. There has been speculation that there may have been some oil pilfering in the Solar I, and that crew members may have been engaged in transferring oil to another vessel at the time of the accident.

Solar I chief engineer Gerardo Pahimutang testified that he was not aware of any such activity taking place aboard the tanker, or about any oil pilferage operations.

When shown the triangular hole, Pahimutang remarked that it appeared to have been deliberately made.

But he said he did not feel that the tanker had hit anything during its voyage, adding that the hole could have been made when the ship sank and was rolling underwater.

Manila treasurer charged with graft

By Norman Bordadora

THE REVENUE INTEGRITY PROTECTION Service (RIPS) of the Department of Finance has filed graft charges against the Manila city treasurer for allegedly amassing millions of pesos worth of property despite having an annual salary of just over P200,000.

Liberty Toledo, Manila city treasurer since 1995, also faces charges in the Ombudsman for violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, the Revised Penal Code and other laws.

"(Since) her appointment to the much coveted post ... Toledo had steadily acquired substantial wealth, including numerous prime and expensive real properties in the city of Manila and elsewhere," read the complaint filed by RIPS intelligence officers Jesse Lara, Fermin Aguaviva and Henry Mariano.

"(This) is grossly disproportionate to her true and lawful income and which cannot be justified by any other legitimate source of income and/or honest revenue."

Investigation showed that despite having an annual salary of only P267,684, Toledo and her husband Jose Francisco—whose declared annual income was P150,000—were able to acquire, aside from the real estate, five cars and travel abroad frequently.

"With respondent earning a modest salary ... her substantial property ownership and her family's frequent foreign travels are, without doubt, manifestly out of proportion to her lawful income," the complaint said.

RIPS found that in 1999, four years after assuming her post, Toledo bought a house at Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque City for P4 million.

Two years later, she acquired a condominium in Malate "conservatively estimated to be worth P2 million."

In 2003, she bought a four-story building worth P10 million which she declared in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth as being "only an apartment unit," investigators said.

In the same year, she acquired another condominium estimated to cost P2 million.

In her SALNs, Toledo said the Parañaque property was acquired at a cost of P300,000 while the "apartment unit" cost only P800,000.

She said these were purchased with loans from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Investigators, however, doubted her declarations since the loans would not have been enough to cover the cost of the properties.

Not just bullets but libel suits, too

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS of the Philippines (NUJP) scored the filing of libel suits by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo against the Tulfo brothers and the publisher and eight editors of the INQUIRER and Bandera and the order of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to the National Bureau of Investigation to determine any possible criminal liability that Arlyn de la Cruz may bear for her articles on the "security test."

The case stemmed from several columns written by INQUIRER and Bandera columnist Ramon Tulfo linking the First Gentleman to smuggling activities.

These "prove that journalists have to contend not just with bullets and threats to bring the truth to the people," the NUJP said in a statement emailed to the INQUIRER.

Separate complaints were filed against the Bandera publisher and editors. Bandera is a sister company of the INQUIRER.

Earlier, the International Federation of Journalists called the filing of libel cases as having gone "out of control," not only by the outrageous claims plaintiffs often lodge but, even more so, by those who file them.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 9, 2006
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Peter Claver

1st Reading:	**1 Cor 4:6-15**
Gospel:	**Luke 6:1-5**

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the corn fields and his disciples began to pick heads of grain crushing them in their hands for food. Some of the Pharisees asked them, "Why do you do what is forbidden on the Sabbath?" Then Jesus spoke, "Have you never read what David did when he and his men were hungry?" He entered the house of God, took and ate the bread of the offering and even gave some to his men, though only priests are allowed to eat that bread." And Jesus added, "The Son of Man is Lord and rules over the Sabbath."

Commentary

We are not to take sides and divide the community. Our leaders are to stand behind the community, following at the end, falling in behind Jesus, bearing their crosses and trials, encouraging those they have taught the Gospel to, to live as fools for Christ. Are we known as Christ's or do we belong to one faction or other, forgetting the Word of God among us? Like the Pharisees at the time of Jesus, are we nitpicking about inconsequential issues while ignoring hunger, true justice and worship of God? We are called to remember that our Lord is Jesus, the Son of Man, master who was crucified for standing for the Truth.

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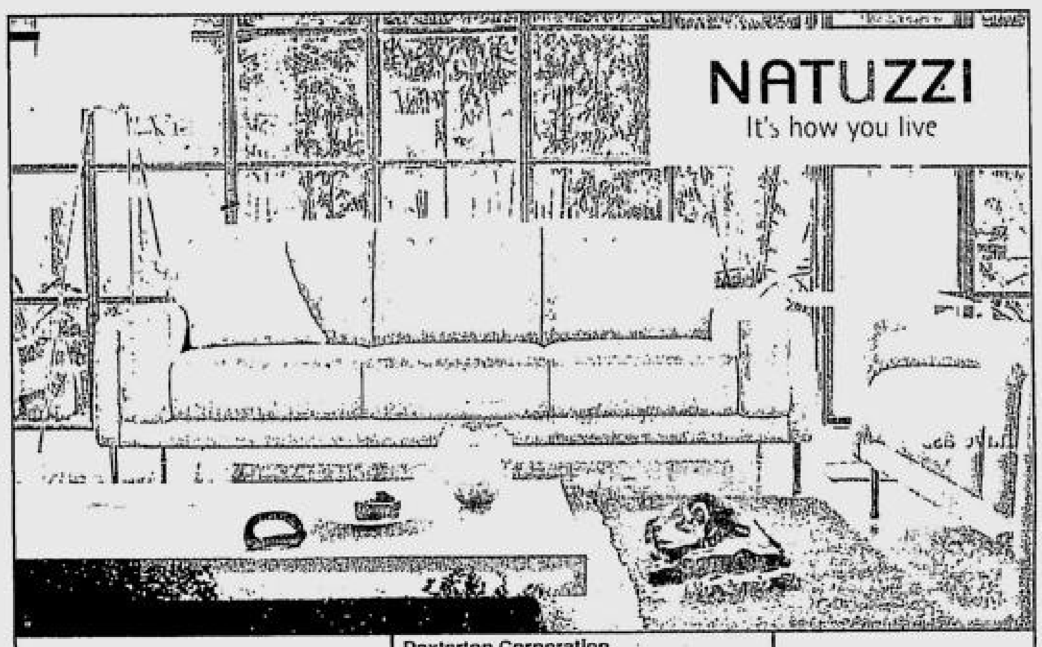

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THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (PACCD)
3rd Annual Convention, September 30 and October 1, 2006

The Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) will hold its 3rd Annual Convention on September 30 and October 1, 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City.

The theme "Dermatology Practice in the Philippines – Past, Present and Future" is about the latest developments and techniques in clinical and cosmetic dermatology as given by prominent foreign and local experts.

Topics include Secrets of Hair Removal System and Photo Rejuvenation, Management of Varicose Veins, Role of Glutathione Anti-oxidants, Dermocosmetics, Use of Lycopene in Acne treatment, Dermatological Signs of Endocrine Diseases, Detox for Dermatology Patients, Updates in the Diagnosis of Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases, VCO for Beautiful Skin and Body, Diagnosis and Management of Cutaneous Melanoma and Chronic Urticaria, and more. Workshops in Botox, Mesotherapy and Intense Pulse Light are also included.

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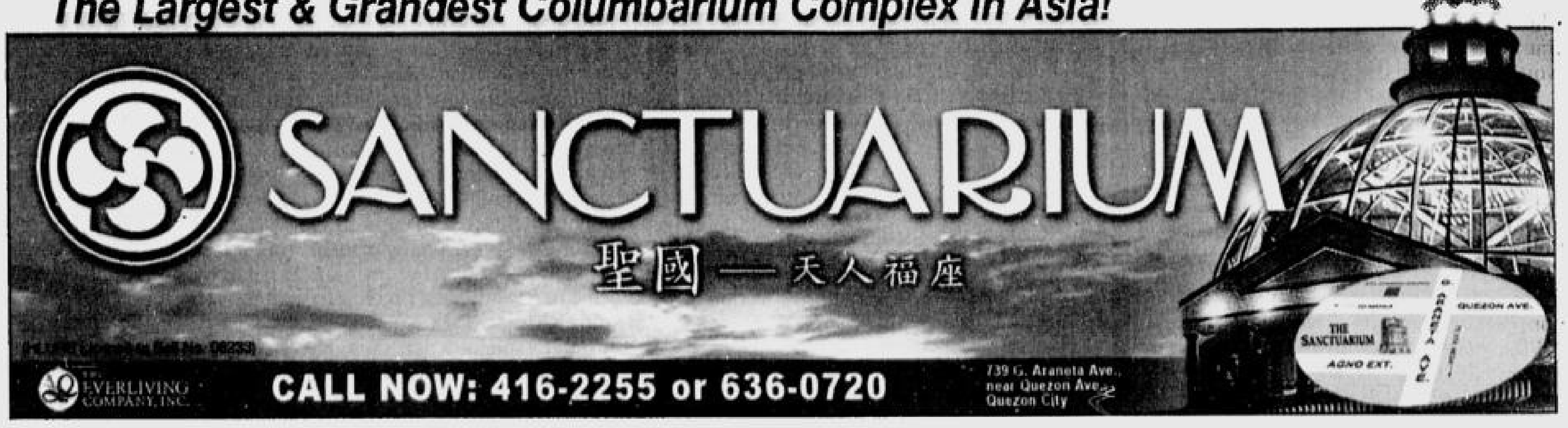
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'Reign of terror continues'

From page A1

influence over intelligence units nationwide.

"Oh, no! With that position, he will have a wider scope in implementing [the Arroyo administration's] all-out war [against communist insurgents]," Fortaleza said. "The appointment also confirms that all along, all of his actions, his crimes against the people, have the full blessings of [the administration]."

Casiño has filed a P20-million libel suit at the Office of the Ombudsman against Palparan and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

He also charged the two officials with abuse of authority.

The complaint stems from print and broadcast reports that on Nov. 17, 2005, Palparan and then Army chief Esperon showed reporters video footage of Casiño purportedly briefing communist guerrillas.

Casiño said the video was actually an edited version of a talk he had delivered at a solidarity night marking the end of the Tacloban-Catarman peace caravan on March 9, 2005.

"The statements of Generals Esperon and Palparan were utter falsehoods maliciously meant to defame me, tarnish my reputation and honor, and make me vulnerable to harassment, intimidation and assassination. The edited video footage they selectively showed were falsely and maliciously presented as footage of a meeting I had with members of the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines when in fact no such 'secret meeting' took place," Casiño said.

'Perverse gift'

At the House of Representatives, militant lawmakers described Palparan's planned appointment as a "perverse gift" and a "blatant insult."

"Palparan's designation is GMA's perverse gift to Palparan and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales," said Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna.

Ocampo, the leader of the party-list group that has lost a number of its members to the extrajudicial killings, said Palparan's planned appointment was "a reinforcement of anti-Left bigotry."

"It signals a worse human rights situation for people critical of the government and its policies," Ocampo said.

Rep. Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, another militant party-list group, condemned the general's appointment, saying: "Ms Arroyo's shameless appointment of Palparan is no less than a blatant insult and an added injustice to the victims of political killings. Ms Arroyo can continuously coddle murderers like Palparan but she cannot escape the people's growing disgust at her fascist regime."

Mariano, who also heads the militant farmers' alliance Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the President appeared uninterested in putting a stop to political killings.

On the contrary, he said, by appointing Palparan to the NSC, "she wants the killings to continue to escalate because she thinks that, with the terror it brings, she can hold on to power."

Macariola

Even Sen. Panfilo Lacson viewed Palparan's planned appointment with alarm.

"I hope Palparan's first assignment will not be to look for Samson Macariola and liquidate him," the senator said, adding that the general could well be hunting down Macariola to earn his first paycheck.

Macariola was the antiterror expert who raised a storm when he disclosed to the INQUIRER last week that he was able to sneak bomb components onto a commercial flight on Aug. 14. (*See story on Page A1.*)

Senators earlier said Ms Arroyo's directive to investigate political killings was not going to be credible because of her public endorsement of Palparan during her State of the Nation Address in July.

Lacson also wondered why Malacañang wanted many antiterror advisers and consultants.

"There is [retired] Gen. Benjamin Defensor, there is Undersecretary [Ric] Blancaflor, there is Mayor [Rodrigo] Duterte—all dealing with antiterrorism. Now comes Jovito Palparan," Lacson said.

"With the preponderance of antiterror experts without an antiterror law yet, what will they all do?" he said.

Lacson pointed out that Defensor, Blancaflor and Duterte's positions were outside the table of organization of any existing government agency and were accountable only to the President.

'Palparan approach'

Said Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan: "The appointment is a great injustice and insult to all the victims of Palparan and the Arroyo regime. It is clear for the whole world to see that the Arroyo administration does not intend to stop the wave of extrajudicial killings that has plagued the entire country.

"Ms Arroyo clearly has taken the side of butchers and murderers because that is the policy of her administration."

Reyes said the "Palparan approach," as practiced in the provinces of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, would be applied to other provinces as part of the administration's anti-insurgency campaign.

"*Cedulas,* curfews, checkpoints, forced evacuations and other activities that have earned Palparan notoriety will likely be enforced on a nationwide scale. We call on human rights advocates, civil libertarians, lawmakers and other patriotic Filipinos to protest this latest injustice and assault on the Filipino people," Reyes said.

Bayan issued the reminder that Palparan was facing a contempt charge by the Court of Appeals for his failure to appear at the *habeas corpus* proceedings for the two University of the Philippines students abducted in Bulacan.

It said it expected the European community to take note of Palparan's planned appointment when Ms Arroyo arrives in Europe today.

Reyes said a protest action had been scheduled in Brussels, Belgium, on Sept. 12.

He said human rights groups and labor unions would spearhead the protest action as part of their campaign to stop the political killings in the Philippines.

'Ultimate injustice'

Other cause-oriented groups added their voices to the growing outrage.

"This is the ultimate injustice of the highest order ... [Palparan's] appointment as criminal sidekick of Norberto Gonzales is an admission that extrajudicial killings are the No. 1 political edict of the Arroyo administration," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

Aurora Broquil, chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya in Central Luzon, said the appointment was Ms Arroyo's way of extending gratitude to Palparan for attacking and silencing dissent against her "illegitimate presidency."

Broquil said the appointment was the President's "public admittance of the state policy of eliminating militants."

Said Roman Polintan, chair of Bayan Central Luzon, of the appointment: "We vehemently oppose it ... It's an insult to the victims of political killings and government repression." Polintan also said the appointment was questionable because it came on the heels of Palparan's defiance of a Court of Appeals order requiring him to appear before the court.

"[His appointment] proves that the spate of killings and abductions are part of government policy," Polintan said. ***With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila; Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon***

Gen. Palparan: Red

By Cyril L. Bonabente
Inquirer Research

COMPLAINTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS abuse may have dogged Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan wherever he was assigned, but the man has consistently earned praise from the Arroyo administration for his supposed exemplary performance in counterinsurgency operations.

Activists and militant organizations blame the "*berdugo* (butcher)" for 326 cases of human rights violations, including about 80 killings, in Mindoro during his term there as head of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade in 2001-2003.

Still, President Macapagal-Arroyo awarded the then colonel the "Gawad sa Kaunlaran" in 2002, and promoted him to brigadier general in January 2003.

Three months later, Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy, two activists investigating alleged atrocities in Oriental Mindoro, were found dead in the capital city of Calapan. The militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Karapatan linked the twin murders to Palparan.

To give the National Bureau of Investigation a free hand in the ensuing inquiry, Palparan was relieved of his post and transferred to the 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay, Rizal, where he served as deputy commander.

Iraq

In 2004, Palparan was sent to lead the Philippine military contingent assigned to conduct civic and medical operations in south central Iraq.

In the same year, he was promoted to the rank of major general and appointed chief of staff of the Army.

In February 2005, despite the protests of human rights groups, he was installed chief of the 8th ID based in Eastern Visayas. There he was accused of responsibility for 199 cases of killings, disappearances, harassment, torture and other rights violations.

In August 2005, Palparan was

Palparan gets new j

From page A1

paran's appointment showed the President's high confidence in him.

Mindful that Ms Arroyo will be in Europe on the day of his retirement, Palparan went to Malacañang yesterday to personally express his thanks to her. (The President is scheduled to leave today for Finland. She will visit four other countries before returning home on Sept. 18.)

A beaming Ms Arroyo took time to chat with Palparan after the oath-taking ceremony of her new appointees, Government Media Secretary Cerge Remonde (lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Council) and former Philippine National Police chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao (head of the National Irrigation Administration).

Palparan later told reporters that he would accept any assignment from Ms Arroyo.

"Any job offer by the government I will accept, but I would be happy if I could help in the counterinsurgency [campaign

Palparan also said that with h
ing retirement from the military
that he could have done more in
the counterinsurgency problem.

Frustration

"How I wish I could have led
Forces] in this counterinsurgency
in a bigger role," he said.

Palparan said it was a "frus
him that the problem of the co
surgency had yet to be licked an
critical.

"I could have done more," he
that he was willing to help in the
campaign even in a "civilian capa

Asked how he planned to do th
said he intended to do a lot of
dissemination against the insurg
inspire people" in this fight.

He said reporters themselves

TERROR ALERT. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales (left), PNP Deputy Director General Isidro Lapena and Chief Supt. Romeo Ricardo (right) announce the heightened alert in a press conference in Malacañang.

LYN RILLON

PNP on full alert for GMA trip

From page A1

He ordered the Aviation Security Group, the Maritime Group and all local police units to implement strict security measures in all airports, seaports and terminals of mass transport systems.

He said the elite Special Action Force would provide support to these units by way of troops augmentation, equipment and tactical response.

He also said the Task Force Sanglahi, the intelligence backbone of the PNP's antiterror efforts, was doing "an excellent job" of monitoring movements and activities of known terrorist group and their members.

Rajah Sulaiman Movement

Calderon said that based on a report of Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo, chief of the PNP's Intelligence Group and Task Force Sanglahi, members of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement (RSM) were moving to other terrorist groups.

"With the apparent leadership vacuum in the RSM as a result of the arrest of its key leaders, some RSM members may form or join other organized Islamic extremist groups," Calderon said, quoting Ricardo.

Calderon also said "continuous manhunt and pursuit operations" were underway against members of the Jemaah Islamiyah and Wakalah Hudaibiyah who had reportedly established cells in local terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf and the RSM.

Among the more notorious terrorists already captured by the police and military were Muklis Yunos of the MILF Special Operations Group; Taufek Refki, a ranking member of the Wakalah Hudaibiyah; Edzmar Hayudini and Yakob Basug of the Abu Sayyaf; Russian Idris Abdulmahid Khorolin and Jordanian Mohammad Adel Suleiman Almomani, both suspected terrorist financiers.

Terror threat levels

For the month of September, the government is on high alert in major urban centers in Mindanao and on moderate alert in Metro Manila.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday said that authorities had come up with "terrorism threat levels," and that the Anti-Terrorism Task Force would be in charge of projecting the alert levels to be declared monthly.

"We are assuming that terrorism is here to stay, and what is important is for our citizens to be prepared all the time," Gonzales told reporters at a Palace briefing.

The terror threat levels aim to raise the level of preparedness of different government agencies as well, he said.

In a presentation, officials said authorities would classify terror threat levels into low, moderate, high and extreme (either severe or critical).

These may apply to any terror attack, which authorities define as "any unlawful act or acts intended to cause mass or a multitude of casualties or victims and/or great damage to property or the economy."

Classifications

A low threat level means there is no monitored intent and capability, and no information to suggest a specific or imminent terrorist attack in Metro Manila and other major political and economic centers.

A moderate threat level—which has been raised in Metro Manila—means the intent is present but capability is not monitored, and a terrorist attack is possible but not likely.

A high threat level—now enforced in major urban centers in Mindanao—means both intent and capability have been monitored, and a terrorist attack is a strong possibility within a short period of time.

An extreme threat level means both intent and capability are monitored and there is an imminent timeline.

It is classified as severe (a terrorist attack is highly likely) or critical (a terrorist attack has occurred or has just been preempted, and follow-through attacks are expected).

Gonzales explained that these alert levels would be based on intelligence reports culled by the intelligence community and submitted to the task force.

'Bird flu,' 'MP3' make it to crossword dictionary

From page A1

At 1,800 pages of dictionary text—1,872 with supplements—and about 270,000 definitions of approximately 150,000 words, the new edition out next month updates its predecessor from 2003.

But billing the 500 or so words as new is something of a misnomer. They have all been more or less common currency for the last three years or more. The only new thing is their first appearance in the dictionary.

For example, global fears over an outbreak of new entry "SARS"—severe acute respiratory syndrome—was at its height in 2003.

"Sex up"—to make more interesting or attractive—emerged from Britain's exaggerated claims about former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's supposed weapons capability to justify military action in the same year.

"Congestion charge"—the fee levied on motorists to drive into central London—also makes it in, three years after it was introduced to widespread controversy and even longer since it was first mooted.

It's even arguable that "arm candy"—someone invited to a social event more for their looks than personality—and "salad dodger"—a person with an unhealthy diet—haven't been used much since then.

Like watches

As Samuel Johnson, the celebrated author of the "Dictionary of the English Language" in 1755, put it: "Dictionaries are like watches: the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true."

That and the ever-increasing speed of language change is a fact not lost on publishers Chambers Harrap and its main competitors—instant technology increasingly highlights the deficiencies of the old medium of print.

Take "Pluto" for example: Its recent downgrading as a planet means Chambers' entry is already obsolete and will have to be reworked, as will the definition of "planet" and other associated terms, according to editor Ian Brookes.

Web dictionary

Elaine Higgleton, HarperCollins' editorial director for dictionaries, said: "Probably the market for print dictionaries is declining already. People are already switching to different forms of delivery."

"An awful lot is available online ... I think there will still be a market for print dictionaries but inevitably, it's going to develop when people rely more and more on their one piece of technology," Higgleton said.

There are a huge number of websites devoted to a task once the preserve of what Johnson called the "harmless drudge that busies himself in tracing the original, and detailing the signification of words"—the lexicographer.

Word definitions can already be sent by text message while amateur wordsmiths can indulge their passions at websites like HarperCollins' Word Exchange or the celebrated Oxford English Dictionary's Ask Oxford.

Web dictionaries

Later this year, HarperCollins, which publishes Collins English Dictionary, is planning to launch a series of downloadable dictionaries, including one for MP3 players that is being billed as "iTunes for words."

"The end game for dictionary publishers across the board involves content that is also electronic," said Brookes. "The way technology moves means we can access much more quickly information about words and how they are used."

Technological advances are also changing the work of the lexicographer.

Gone are the days of shoeboxes stuffed with ink-scrawled index cards. Now, computer programs automatically search for words and offer definitions, from sources like television programs to celebrity magazines.

The Chambers Dictionary is itself created using data from software that monitors the latest English words and meanings all year round.

Test of words

According to Brookes, the Web is democratizing the charting of English that in times past, typically involved fusty academics, old maids and even a deranged genius locked up in a mental asylum for murder—who was one of the main contributors to the first edition of the OED.

For the moment though, print still has its place, Brookes and Higgleton said, with the Internet acting as a filter, testing the durability of new words and phrases.

"We are waiting a bit for words to become constant before we include them in the (print) dictionary," Brookes said.

"We're offering a bit more of a considered view. We have something to offer that's not online ... We can offer authority and expertise of doing this over a long period of time." *AFP*

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fighter or butcher?

ain relieved of his post and as-
;ned to head the 7th ID based in
rt Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. With-
a month, 13 leaders and mem-
rs of the party-list group Bayan
ına and its affiliate organizations
Central Luzon were reported
led.

Only recently, Palparan and his
n were accused of imposing mar-
l-law-like conditions in Nueva
ija, for requiring villagers to pre-
ıt a *cedula* (residence certificate)
proof of legitimate residency.

A major

Palparan was born on Sept. 11,
50, in Cagayan de Oro, and grew
in his father's hometown in Mal-
og, Southern Leyte.

He completed a bachelor's de-
e in business administration at
University of the East in Manila
1971, and, about two decades
er, a master's degree in national
urity administration at the Na-
nal Defense College of the Philip-
ıes.

He is married to a dentist with whom he has three children.

Palparan joined the Armed Forces in 1974, just as the Moro National Liberation Front was launching its secessionist war in Mindanao.

He was sent to Jolo as part of the 24th IB, the unit once described by a retired Army general as "a virtual killing machine."

The battalion was moved to Luzon in the early 1980s to fight the communist New People's Army. In 1987, Palparan was appointed its commanding officer—a post that he held for about five years.

Days ago, the NPA said Palparan had been judged for his supposed crimes and would "surely face revolutionary justice."

He already had a close call in November 2002 in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, when NPA guerrillas wounded him in an ambush that killed four Army soldiers and injured eight more.

After that attack, Palparan said: "I'll be back soon and continue my work of peace for the people."

PALPARAN: New job for the man regarded by the government as anti-Red fighter and by critics as a "butcher."

TONETTE T. OREJAS / CENTRAL LUZON

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should help put a stop to the insurgency problem, which, he said, should be done with "quickly."

"We don't need this," he said.

Looking back at his military career of more than 30 years, Palparan said he found the "butcher" label "unfair somehow if the people would believe it, but now, I have to live with it because the majority of the people know that it is not true."

Getting attention

Later, Palparan said the "butcher" tag did not bother him because it had even turned out useful for him.

"Because I get attention," he said, pointing out that in the government campaign against the communist insurgents, the latter were engaged in a propaganda war, and the military, in psychological warfare.

He said the tag against him had somehow helped him in engaging in psychological warfare with the enemy.

"I delivered a lot against the terrorists," he declared.

When he retires, he will return to "the loving arms of wife and children," Palparan said.

He insisted that he was not afraid of death threats.

He said that with the enemy's strategy of engaging in propaganda, it should be the government that would engage in striking fear in the enemy.

"They're just few, and they're the bad elements of society," he said, adding:

"I'm free and happy ... I'm not only walking around but kicking [as well]."

Of the NPA guerrillas, Palparan said: "They can only kill people."

He promised to make sure that he would be the one on the offensive against them.

"In that way, they will have difficulty in getting close to me," Palparan said. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

British unions want Tony Blair to go now

From page A1

"Unless something changes, Labor will lose the next election," said Derek Simpson, head of Britain's second-biggest union, the Labor-affiliated Amicus.

"The delay (in Blair's departure) is causing such a concern that I have to say I think he should have gone by now. We were massacred at the local elections and in by-elections; we are way behind in the opinion polls."

Blair said on Thursday he would resign within a year, following a week of turmoil for the party, but rejected calls to name an early departure date.

Several unions help bankroll Labor, which is their traditional political ally and primary lever on public policy.

If the more business-friendly Conservatives win power, unions fear their influence would all but disappear.

But unions have voiced growing concern about job cuts and wage caps in the public sector, complaining that Labor in government has drifted far from its roots.

Blair has long faced union criticism for being the architect of that schism, having led Labor to power by moving away from the left-wing to the center ground of British politics.

British public wants Blair out

Union sources say there is no danger they will cut their funding lifeline to Labor, but there is growing alarm at the chasm emerging between grass roots activists and the executive.

Seventy-five percent of Amicus's 30,000 workplace representatives, responsible for more than a million union members, want an immediate change of Labor leadership.

This echoes the findings of The Daily Telegraph poll. Of the 1,504 people surveyed by YouGov for the newspaper on Wednesday and Thursday—mostly before Blair publicly vowed to resign within a year—58 percent said they thought he should resign this year, compared to 36 percent when YouGov last asked the question in February.

Some 65 percent of the general public, including 52 percent of Labor supporters, think he should leave by early next year.

Almost half of Labor voters surveyed in February said he should stay on until 2008 or later, while just 21 percent think so now.

The proportion of Labor supporters who thought "the wheels are falling off the coach" has jumped from 10 percent in February to 35 percent in the latest survey.

While Blair declined to name a date when he would step down, the Financial Times reported Friday that Blair would step down in May following regional elections in Scotland and Wales.

Chancellor of the Exchequer (or Finance Minister) Gordon Brown—the odds-on favorite to succeed Blair—would make the best prime minister, according to 56 percent of Labor voters. What bodes especially well for his chances are that none of his prospective rivals even reached double-digits.

Home Secretary John Reid, mentioned by some as a potential challenger to Brown in the wake of his high-profile role in the response to the foiled alleged terror plot to blow up US-bound passenger jets, was backed by just nine percent of those surveyed.

Britain's main opposition Conservative Party, meanwhile, extended its lead on Labor, enjoying the support of 40 percent of the voters, while Labor polled at 32 percent—compared to a seven-point difference in a YouGov poll last month.

"The government needs to make a fresh start articulating its mission with a new coherence in a fast-changing landscape," Trades Union Congress general secretary Brendan Barber said.

No connection with base

"One of the issues ... the government needs to address is the lack of connection with some of their traditional base."

Barber, head of the non-affiliated umbrella group which caters for nearly seven million workers, stopped short of calling for an immediate exit for Blair, but Transport & General Workers' Union leader Tony Woodley, did not.

"Only Labor lacks a standard bearer and does not know who will be leading the effort to close the widening deficit in the opinion polls," Woodley said, referring to polls showing Labor trailing the opposition Conservatives by nine points.

Trade unions come together next week for their annual meeting with pensions, public sector job cuts and wage caps at the top of the agenda, but the future of Labor is bound to dominate.

Blair will address the Trades Union Congress meeting on Tuesday and then face questions from union members eager to know exactly when and what to expect from a new Labor leader.

But, even if Blair goes soon, unions can expect few favors from the man tipped to replace him.

Brown has taken a hard line with the public sector as he strives for cost cuts and economic stability, promising to slash jobs and telling workers to expect no more than two percent annual pay rises, below inflation.

Brown is expected to address unions at a dinner on Tuesday and can expect a grilling about Labour's future. *Reuters, AFP*

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OPINION

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Mismatch

EDITORIAL

THE INQUIRER SERIES ON JOBS-SKILLS MISmatch reveals the lack of congruence between the curricular offerings of our tertiary system and the needs of industries. While the higher education system offers programs for white-collar professions, industries offer blue-collar jobs that have not been satisfied because there aren't enough skilled workers to fill them up. Obviously herein lies one loophole of Philippine industrialization: the country's incapacity to establish and consolidate industries owing to the lack of skilled manpower to drive and operate the industries in the first place.

Most higher-education institutions, including state colleges and universities, have historically offered degree programs to satisfy white-collar industries and professions. These would include the symbolic disciplines (accounting, engineering, etc.) and the management fields (business administration, public administration and even clerical-secretarial jobs). These would be well and good if not for the fact that many jobs in the industries call for vocational and technical know-how and competence, which are however considered by the rather elitist education system as manual and, worse, merely menial, skills.

Because of the disparity between school programs and industry needs, major firms themselves, such as the Meralco Foundation, have put up their own schools to provide industries with skilled manpower. Top industrialists themselves have bought into or taken over existing schools (Lucio Tan and the University of the East, Alfonso Yuchengo and Mapua Institute of Technology); or put up new ones (George Ty and the Manila Doctors College, Henry Sy and IBM and the Asia-Pacific College). Meanwhile, Catholic schools, such as the Don Bosco Manpower Training Skills Center, have given vocational and technical scholarship grants to poor young people.

Part of the problem in the mismatch is attitude. A college diploma is looked upon as a status symbol, whether or not the diploma holder lands a job. Young Filipinos would readily take up any of the four-year college courses, no matter the dim job and career prospects those courses offer. College orientation sessions for graduating high school students hardly include the prospect of vocational and technical training. Those who take up technical courses are frowned upon by others, if not derided.

Such was the experience of Allyson Fernandez when, after graduating as class valedictorian at the Wesleyan Academy in Cainta, she chose to take up technical-vocational training in robotics at the Meralco Foundation. She said her classmates made fun of her decision. "They have this idea that without a college degree, I have nowhere to go," said the 17-year-old student.

Nevertheless, she is persisting in her pursuit of a career in robotics. After she finishes the training, she could easily find employment as an industrial technician, part of the 600,000 jobs available in our industries but which cannot be filled due to the lack of qualified workers.

The mismatch between jobs and skills is worrisome to both education planners and the business community. Thankfully, the education system is steadily addressing the problem. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, which regulates technical schools in the country, and the Commission on Higher Education have forged an agreement that would encourage young people to take up vocational and technical courses after high school. In their "ladderized education program," vocational training will be credited as curriculum units for a college degree later.

The new program could uplift the status of vocational courses and provide them with the sheen of a regular college course. It could force colleges and universities to upgrade their curricular offerings and programs to respond to the manpower needs of industries. Moreover, the college units or diploma earned by the vocational student may be used for better job placement and even promotion in industries.

Perhaps, a shift in attitudes is needed not only in industries but in agriculture as well. Despite the country's innate agricultural riches, our education system has not supplied agriculture and agricultural industries with the needed brains and manpower. This should perhaps explain the Filipinos' historic aversion to blue-collar work and the incapacity of Philippine industries to take off since, ultimately, agriculture is the basis of authentic industrialization. Christ's agrarian parable has resonances in our twisted industrialization and education priorities: "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few."

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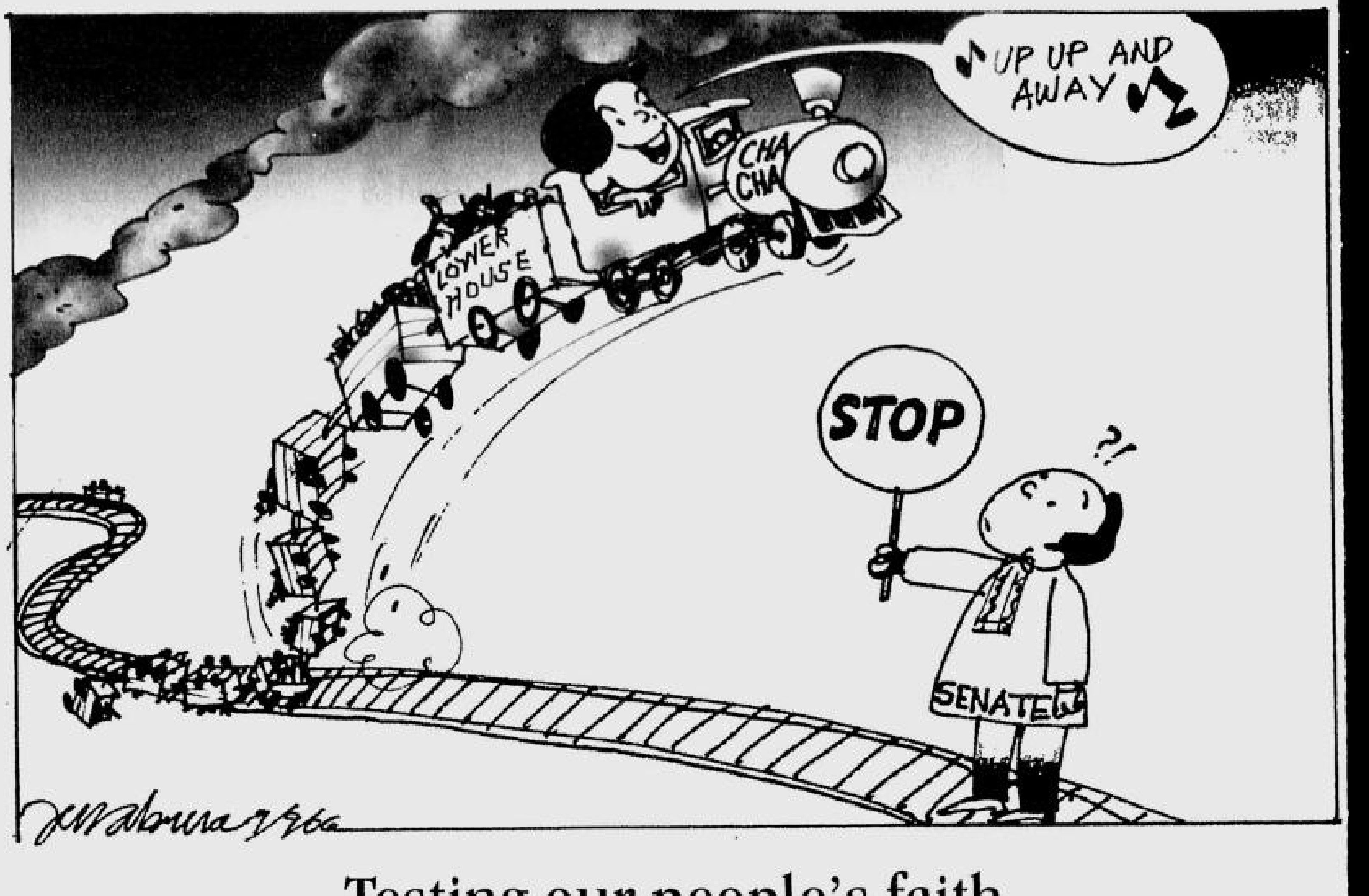


Testing our people's faith

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS MUCH IMPRESSED BY CHIEF JUSTICE Artemio V. Panganiban when he said in answer to Justice Dante O. Tinga's dissenting opinion in the recent case of David v. Arroyo, GR No. 171396, May 3, 2006:

"History will never forget, much less forgive, this Court if it allows such misadventure and refuses to strike down abuse at its inception. Worse, our people will surely condemn the misuse of legal hocus pocus to justify this trifling with constitutional sanctities."

These words, coming from no less than the Chief Justice of the Philippines, should assure the nation that, even as it carefully deliberated on the challenge to PP 1017 and thereafter boldly decided it, the High Tribunal will rule on the present petitions on the validity of the initiative with wisdom and courage.

I cannot pretend any objectivity on this matter, having already expressed my opposition to the initiative in several articles I have written in this column. I nevertheless share the hope that whatever decision is reached by the Supreme Court on the pending petitions will be arrived at in accordance with the rule of law as laid down in Art. XVII of the Constitution.

Significantly, Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., who wrote the majority decision in the Santiago Case, and the seven justices who concurred with him are all already retired. So are four but two of the dissenting members, who happen to be no less than the Chief Justice himself and Justice Reynato S. Puno, the next-in-line who is expected to succeed him in December.

These two ranking members of the present Supreme Court will exert tremendous influence on the rest of the justices, 13 of them being appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo to whom they owe a debt of gratitude they may want to repay by sustaining the initiative. GMA is known to be its champion and also of the Con-Ass and also the Con-Con, whichever of them may promote her ambition to remain in public office and power.

The only two members of the present Court not appointed by GMA are Puno and Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing; Panganiban was also appointed as associate justice by President Ramos but owes his present top position to President Arroyo.

The legal persuasions that may be exerted by Panganiban and Puno, supported by the political influence exercised by GMA, must be the reason for the confident expectation of the promoters of the initiative that it will have easy sailing in the Supreme Court.

They seem to forget, though, that they had the same hope when PP 1017, EO 464, and other commands issued by President Arroyo were challenged and lost before the same Supreme Court dominated by her appointees. Their gratitude to their benefactor, which must have been expected if not actually demanded, did not materialize.

In Senate v. Ermita, GR No. 169777, April 9, 2006, two major sections in EO 464 were invalidated as unlawful extensions of the President's executive privilege. In Bayan v. Ermita, GR No 169838, April 25, 2006, the Calibrated Preemptive Response of the military was permanently enjoined as completely null and void. In David v. Arroyo, *supra*, her promulgation of decrees with the supposed force of law and the acts of her subordinates implementing PP 1017, like warrantless arrests for undefined acts of terrorism, were declared unconstitutional.

All told, the rulings of the Supreme Court in these cases, although carefully respectful of the President, were also a rejection of her abuses.

These recent developments may strengthen the expectation of the opponents of the initiative that it will not succeed in the present Supreme Court although the cards are, so to speak, stacked against them. They are hoping that an honest appreciation and interpretation of the law will again prevail over mere sentiments of personal gratitude as demonstrated in the cases just discussed.

There is also the relevant question of how to verify the supposed verification of the supposedly 6.5 million signatures attached to the initiative petition as proof of compliance with the requirements of the Constitution. No less suspicious is the credibility of the Commission on Elections, which has become one of the most untrustworthy agencies of the government, particularly with its membership of a number of shady characters like Virgilio Garcillano.

As an opponent of the initiative, I hope the pending petitions in its favor will be dismissed by the Supreme Court for lack of merit. That is a consummation devoutly to be wished but, alas, not certain to be realized. Nevertheless, if the petitions are sustained for whatever respectable reason the justices may give, I will abide by it as a law-abiding citizen albeit regretfully. It will be one of the avoidable disappointments of a failed democracy.

I will try my best to believe that the decision was reached with full understanding and appreciation of the law, and only of the law. I will try my best to remember that tomorrow is not a lost if blurred and vanishing vision. I will try my best to keep intact my remaining faith, dwindling by the hour, that ours is a government of laws and not of men, or women.

Court backlogs and imprisonment

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

AS OF 2003, THE COURT OF APPEALS HAD a case backlog—defined as the total number of pending cases, and derived by subtracting case outflow from court caseload—of 22,603. This information is in the National Statistical Coordination Board's 2005 Philippine Statistical Yearbook (PSY), as supplied by the Supreme Court. Since there were 47 sitting justices at the time, each justice had an average of 481 pending cases.

That dishearteningly large backlog—after all, justice delayed is justice denied—may have been a major reason why, in 2004, 18 more justices were added to the court—this meant an additional six divisions, which were divided evenly between Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. While the backlog for that year declined only marginally (by 141, to 22,462), the average case backlog per sitting justice went down to 330. Which made the situation less daunting.

Did the addition of 18 more justices improve the situation in 2005? A certain Mr. Perocho of the court's information office says that the pending cases by end 2005 totaled 22,521. Assuming the same number of justices as in 2004, the pending cases per justice remained about the same—but apparently there has been a marked increase in case outflow—cases decided or resolved: from 11,875 in 2004 to 14,060 in 2005.

But Perocho makes the observation that a case backlog should not be defined as the number of pending cases, but rather the number of cases submitted for decision that remain undecided after one year. That makes sense. A judge may have many pending cases, but she doesn't necessarily have a backlog unless she doesn't hand down a decision on a case within a year after it has been submitted for decision.

Using Perocho's definition, the Court of Appeals' backlog at the end of 2005 was 11,319 or an average of 166 per justice. But that average hides a tremendous disparity among the justices. My understanding is that there are four or five justices of the Court of Appeals with zero backlog. At the other extreme, there was one justice in 2005 who had a backlog of over 300 cases.

I have no idea what sanctions are imposed on jurists who cannot hand down decisions within one year. And since zero backlogs are attainable, there should be, at the very least, strong penalties imposed on justices whose backlogs exceed, say, 20 percent of the cases submitted to them for decision (the penalties increasing in severity as the percentage increases). Additionally, that 20 percent limit should be decreased over time. And to make it easier, additional staff assistance for the jurists in the form of law clerks should be provided.

But even the one-year time limit between submission for decision and handing down the decision should not be applied to all cases across the board. Surely, there should be more urgency in cases involving incarceration than in cases involving property disputes.

A case in point is the one involving Hubert Webb who, together with six others, was convicted of raping and murdering 18-year-old Carmela Vizconde, her mother Estrellita and her sister Jennifer.

Webb has been in jail for over 11 years—or for more than a quarter of his lifetime, for a crime he is innocent of, as attested to by the likes of Sen. Fred Lim (former NBI director), former Governor and Interior Secretary Epimaco Velasco (former NBI director), Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio (former lawyer of then Rep. Freddie Webb), US FBI agent Robert Hefner, not to mention columnist Mon Tulfo (who went to the United States to determine for himself whether Webb was out there at the time of the murder—and came home convinced that indeed he was), former NCRFW Commissioner Sonja Rodriguez (who saw Webb in the United States at the time of the murder), and the records of the US and Philippine immigration agencies—to mention just a few.

All the testimony and evidence of these people and these documents were not as convincing to Regional Trial Court Judge (later Court of Appeals Justice) Amelia Tolentino, as the testimony of "eyewitness" Jessica Alfaro, a drug addict, who gave two different versions of the crime, who could not even identify in court some of her so-called companions during the crime, whose description of what she saw did not jibe with the layout of the room where the rape was committed. Judge Tolentino refused to give any weight to both the Philippine passport of Hubert Webb (which showed him leaving the Philippines before the crime was committed and returning to the Philippines more than a year later), as well as the official certification of the US State Department (showing his entry into the United States before the crime was committed and his exit more than a year later). Why? Because the Webbs were so rich and powerful, that Webb could travel into and out of the United States and the Philippines without leaving any documentary trace.

Amazingly, distressingly, Judge Tolentino's decision was upheld by the Court of Appeals last December 2005.

Naturally, Webb immediately asked for a reconsideration, praying for acquittal instead, making what have to be excellent arguments. That motion was submitted in early January this year, and the prosecution submitted its Consolidated Comment at the end of March.

It's been more than five months since the Court of Appeals received the documents it needs to decide on whether the case merits reconsideration. Five more months of agony for Hubert Webb. Does he have to wait for another seven months, and perhaps more, before the court comes out with its decision?

Political parties as mediators between states

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEOUL—I FLEW INTO SOUTH KOREA'S BUSTLING capital via PAL last Wednesday to cover the 4th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) held Sept. 7-10 at the Lotte Hotel. A few months back, I happened to sit beside the chair of the foreign relations committee of South Korea's ruling Uri Party, MP Chung Eui-yong, at a dinner hosted by Speaker Jose de Venecia in Manila for the SK delegation headed by Speaker Lim Chae-jung of the National Assembly. PM Chung (Korea's former ambassador to the UN and strongly rumored to become the next Speaker) and I got to talking about Korea's parliamentary system of government and unicameral legislature. SK has consistently maintained the unicameral set-up after a two-year unsuccessful experiment with a bicameral system in the '80s. Since I support a unicameral system, Chung's disclosure struck a sympathetic chord. Later he said, why don't you join the fourth ICAPP conference in Seoul in September? Since I hadn't visited South Korea in a long while, I was happy to do so.

* * *

The Seoul conference drew delegates from 90 political parties in 36 countries in the greater Asian region that includes even countries from the Middle East. It was the biggest of the four international conferences held by ICAPP since its inception in 2000, and I was glad to note that it has grown in member parties and countries. I was among the media people present in May 2000 when private citizen Jose de Venecia, who had just suffered a crushing political defeat from presidential rival Joseph Estrada two years earlier, founded ICAPP in Manila, with a little help from private sources and a few foundations, and his residual prestige in the international community. Today, he heads the 15-member standing committee of ICAPP as its heart and soul.

* * *

In Seoul, the 99 major political parties came from Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia (including the countries that once had been part of the Soviet Union), West Asia (the Middle East all the way to Turkey), and countries from Oceania, including New Zealand and Australia. Korea's officials spread the red carpet for the delegates. President Roh Moo-hyun, who's currently attending the Asean-European Community Meeting (ASEM) in Finland with President Macapagal-Arroyo, taped a special message via videopresentation, while Prime Minister Han Myung-sook, Korea's first female prime minister, hosted a dinner last night. Seoul Metropolitan Government Mayor Oh Sae-hoon hosts today's lunch while National Assembly Speaker Lim Chae-jung, hosts tonight's farewell dinner.

* * *

South Korea also gave a valuable lesson in political cooperation that our political parties back home could use. Both the ruling Uri Party and the opposition party, the Grand National Party (GNP), united to co-host the Seoul Assembly, with powerful lady MP Kim Myung-ja (said to be the next chair of the national defense committee of Parliament) and Hwang Woo-yea (GNP secretary general) serving as co-chairs. Key members of both parties helped in the preparations for this big international undertaking, and doubtless, much of its success hinged on the harmony and cooperation displayed by both the ruling and opposition parties. SK President Roo, in his video-message, proudly alluded to this cooperation and I must say it left me terribly envious and wondering when we could ever do this sort of thing at home.

* * *

RP was heavily represented, and our ambassador to Seoul, a classmate of mine from UP, Susan de Ocampo-Castrence, confessed to being floored by all the "heavyweights." The ruling Lakas was represented by De Venecia, who heads the 15-member standing committee of ICAPP, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Jerry Salapuddin and Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos; the Nacionalista Party by Senate President Manuel Villar; the LDP by Sen. Edgardo Angara; the PDP-Laban by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel; the Nationalist People's Coalition (founded by Eduardo Cojuangco) by Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles and Rizal Rep. Jack Duavit; the Liberal Party, Drilon-wing, by Rep. Nereus Ascosta and Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad, while the PDSP was represented by followers of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

* * *

In his keynote address, De Venecia stressed how everywhere in Asia and around the world, political parties are proving to be "irreplaceable agencies of representative and responsive government," as well as "the most efficient channels of popular expression"—articulating people's demands to those who govern them. But just as important, political parties in Asia are becoming "splendid informal avenues" for contacts that political leaders can use to mediate disputes among states with problems. He cited how China's President Hu Jin Tao "took the high ground" when he invited a number of Taiwan's political parties to visit and exchange views in Beijing, in an effort to ease the crisis between mother country and estranged province. JDV also noted how the RP and Chinese governments have been encouraging their national oil companies to jointly explore prospects of oil and gas in the South China Sea; in fact the initial China-RP "seismic understanding" was held in Beijing on the sidelines of the third ICAPP conference in that city in 2004.

It's particularly significant to discuss the role of parties as mediators in crisis in the light of renewed tensions between the two Koreas. As JDV stressed to the delegates, "The obvious first step (in easing political tensions on the Korean Peninsula) is to invite the North Korean parties to join the ICAPP conference." He also noted similar opportunities for political bridge-building in Kashmir by the major political parties in India and Pakistan, and in Sri Lanka and in Nepal. *(To be continued)*

A 'window of opportunity'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A YEAR AGO LAST AUGUST, HURRICANE Katrina devastated New Orleans and surrounding areas, leaving thousands homeless, stranded in their flooded homes and neighborhoods, or holed up in evacuation centers. Many of them were separated from their loved ones, while many others who had family in the Katrina area worried anxiously about their fate.

One of the people watching the news coverage of the tragedy wrought by Katrina was a Fil-American, Jojo Soriano, a resident of Hercules, California. He didn't have relatives in the Louisiana area. Nonetheless, he felt impelled to do his bit. Soriano, a realtor and owner of SEEDesign, a graphic design and marketing communications firm, told a local paper that "I remember just waking up the next day and watching CNN cover water-drenched New Orleans and right there on the TV screen (was) the unmistakably widespread devastation and the horrific aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It was reminiscent of the Sept. 11 event—I felt horrified and helpless. I've been watchful for opportunities to respond compassionately in times of crisis—and surely, this was a window of opportunity to respond in such a manner."

In an e-mail message, Soriano elaborates that "that urge, that energy, the heaviness we feel in the core of our hearts, that is really the call to respond. Life gives us this opportunity to extend our hearts, to express kindness and compassion that are in all of us. And I suppose this call to act compassionately does arise in minute ways on a daily basis..."

* * *

FOR Jojo, the "window of opportunity" presented itself in a way that allowed him to use his skills as a "techie" and as a graphic artist to bring together people separated by Katrina.

As he tells it, designing simple websites is "second nature to me," so he came up with the idea to create a site for Katrina's survivors, which he called www.lostandfoundlist.com.

The website acts as a reference to other sites which users could access to look for the names of the missing, the rescued and those searching, and their locations. A month after he put up the site, Soriano says the one-page site received 26,516 requests or 51 percent of total requests since its launching. "To date, we've received a total of 51,557 requests," he adds.

When asked how many families or people were reunited through lostandfoundlist.com, Soriano says he "would really like to know the answer to that," since his site was but "a portal to many sites. Once they come in here, they go out into another site listed here. It's more of an instrument that led them to another portal that eventually reunited them with their families. We didn't have a tracking system (or) the time to implement that particular feature."

And though he says he didn't get any words of thanks from anyone it "didn't really bother me. When the idea came to mind, it was my own personal need to channel the energy of helplessness when Katrina hit." As he explains it: "I felt disconnected (from) my brothers and sisters in need in New Orleans and the other neighboring states...I couldn't just sit in front of my television set and just watch the news coverage. So I channeled the energy into some form of creativity. If it touches one person, the simple effort has done its job. I know it helped me—and at that point, I knew it succeeded."

* * *

FORTUNATELY for Jojo, his efforts weren't entirely ignored or forgotten.

Nearing the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Soriano received commendations from California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sen. Tom Torlakson for his "hi-tech" effort to help Katrina survivors. "I am writing to congratulate you on the success of your website ... in aiding families searching for their loved ones in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," wrote Torlakson. "You should be very proud of this achievement. The social contribution that you made by creating the website to help those suffering in the wake of the hurricane is priceless."

For his part, Schwarzenegger noted that "at a time when so many felt so helpless, SEEDesign found the inspiration to create (the site). Assisting those affected by Katrina, your website became instrumental in connecting families, loved ones and even pets. Your concern and support are testament to the compassion of this nation's citizens."

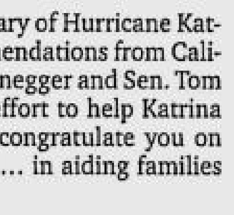
More than the commendations from officials, though, what Jojo treasures are the friendships he made even as he sought to help others through the site. "It was very interesting to observe the other groups doing their own thing—lost and found web portals—each had a different way of going at it—some were more robust, more high-tech, and some—quite simple—down to just a list of names. We met online and exchanged ideas and supported each other along the way. Most were known only by their online identities. It was a wonderful thing to watch ... Though we never kept in touch afterwards, the good feelings linger on."

* * *

ASKED if he could do something similar in the wake of disasters in the Philippines, Soriano says it's possible, "with the amount of talented and skilled IT people in the Bay Area, I think we can—but no promises made. I won't be surprised if a group arises as the need arises .... It's just a matter of budgeting for it time-wise and money-wise. There are many things we can get involved in—our challenge is to select the best of the many good, *di ba*?"

My thanks to Jhie Mojica, who referred the story about her cousin Jojo's website. Jojo would also like to give a "shout out" to "my fellow alumni at Adamson University Boys High School Class of 1978, De Ocampo Memorial School High School 1974, and at Paco Catholic School and to my relatives especially Jhie and Jerry Espiridion and my two Tita Carmens."

Whose war on terror?



WORLD VIEW

Mai Yamani

"WE ARE ALL AMERICANS," WROTE LE MONDE on Sept. 12, 2001. And so it was with most people in the Muslim world, who were as appalled as anyone else at the carnage of the terrorist attacks on Washington and New York. Indeed, when America responded to the attacks, almost no one mourned the fall of the Taliban, who were universally condemned for their fanaticism.

This unanimity of opinion no longer exists. In the five years since the attacks, two audiences for the so-called "war on terror" have emerged. Indeed, as the "war" progressed, the audience closest to the action began to see the emerging combat in a way that was diametrically opposed to that of the United States and the West.

To the US administration, every act in the drama of the war on terror was seen as discrete and self-contained: Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Bush administration, having proclaimed a war on terror, invaded and occupied countries, and yet failed to see that these events were being linked in the eyes of people in the region. Glued to Al Jazeera and other Arab satellite channels, the various battles of the "war on terror" came to be viewed as a single chain of events in a grand plot against Islam.

Worse yet, America waved the banner of democracy as it prosecuted its wars. But hopes for democracy, be it secular or Islamist, for the people concerned have been buried in the rubble and carnage of Baghdad, Beirut and Kandahar.

Many Muslims understand—as well as anyone in the West, and in the same terms—the underlying causes of the alienation that animates Islamic radicalism and violence. They know that the rigid dictatorships of the region have paralyzed their populations. Only those consumed by the fires of their rage seem able to melt the shackles of these authoritarian societies.

But the price of escape is a kind of deformation. Embittered, fanatical, vengeful: those who rebel against the status quo enter the wider world seeking retaliation, not just against the regimes that deformed them, but against the West, which propped up the region's authoritarians in the interest of "stability."

Many Muslims also understand that the problem of Palestine, unsolved for three generations, goes beyond the suffering of the Palestinian people. They know that the region's dictators have used Palestine to justify their misrule and to avoid political and economic liberalization.

So when America called for democracy, the hearts of many in the region soared with the hope that reform would come at last. But America, as so many times before, let them down. As people at last began to hope for more liberal and decent societies, the United States continued to endorse the regimes that were repressing them. America simply could not adhere to its own democracy-promotion script.

After the ouster of the Taliban in Afghanistan, America turned its sights on the secular dictatorship of Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Instead of encouraging reform of the Saudi/Wahhabi regime—the system that spawned 15 of the 19 hijackers in the 9/11 attacks—the average Muslim saw America as waging war on a regime that had nothing to do with that crime.

Many Muslims acquiesced in this deviation, viewing the invasion of Iraq as part of the passing of dictatorship and the coming of democracy. But the bloodstained shambles of the US occupation led America to abandon the quest for democracy. The deeper America sank into the Iraqi quagmire, the more it began to turn a blind eye to the region's surviving dictators, particularly those in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Pakistan.

Indeed, the last thing the region's dictators wanted to see was a democratic Iraq. Almost from the moment of Saddam's fall, Saudi/Wahhabi jihadis poured into Iraq almost unimpeded. Worse yet, the Muslims who supported the project to democratize Iraq widely suspect the Sunni resistance that incited the Iraqi civil war has been financed by Saudi oil money. (Terrorism also kept Iraqi oil from becoming a serious challenger to Saudi Arabia's.)

So the effort to democratize Iraq—indeed, the entire American project to democratize the region—has fallen under deep suspicion by even the most moderate of Muslims. America, they believe, only wants a democracy that suits its interests. If Palestinians freely vote for Hamas, their choice is actively opposed. Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution," which galvanized the West in the same way as Ukraine's Orange Revolution did, has been systematically undermined.

With democracy in most of the region still a long way off—indeed, perhaps a more distant prospect now than five years ago—US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice repeats her mantra that the dead civilians of Beirut, Sidon, Tyre and Gaza represent the "birth pangs" of a new Middle East. But until the West stops regarding dead babies as political props, we cannot understand how the Muslim world perceives all that has happened since Sept. 11, 2001. Only then will we understand why the unified view of five years ago has fractured so violently. ***Project Syndicate***

Mai Yamani is the author of "Cradle of Islam."

'Tsismis'

YOUNG BLOOD

Laarni Joy V. Salvan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I LIKE TALKING TO PEOPLE. I LIKE KNOWING ABOUT other people's lives. I like sharing other people's stories with other people. Does that make me *tsismosa?*

I like knowing people by knowing their stories because it helps me understand them more. It makes me see where they are coming from and accept their actions and reactions to various situations easier. Their stories do not only help me understand them more, they also make me see the banality of some of my own personal experiences. In other words, their stories help me know and understand myself better.

The members of our family love to talk not only about our own experiences, but other people's as well. We find the exercise entertaining, and we learn quite a few things from each sharing.

My mother and I talk a lot. Recently, however, our conversations have been lessened by a lot of reasons. I face the computer monitor longer now than anybody else in the house. It's rather sad when you think about it. Somehow, I just got tired of talking to her about other people's lives. Or maybe, I'm just taking a break from it and we might get back to it once I've gathered enough stories to share with her. We still talk. I still hug her when I'm feeling down or tired or when I just feel like hugging her. But, our conversations are not as "juicy" as they used to be. Maybe I grew tired of some of her stories. I'd like to think that we just have different interests now.

My father and I also talk a lot, given the chance. When the going gets boring or tough, we talk. I appreciate our rare but meaningful conversations. When I need pieces of priceless, if at times unwanted, advice, I get them from him. But it's not only advice that I get from him; I also get some rather unexpected *tsismis* as well. Or maybe it would be more accurate to say that I gather directly from him *tsismis* about him. You see, my father loves to talk about himself, especially when he's bored and in a chatting mood.

Funny but it's only now that I have realized that I was able to gather *tsismis* about my mother's life earlier on. That is probably the reason I don't talk to her so much now. The animated stories we share deal with our officemates' lives, our adventures with our friends or plans for out of town trips with the family. They're quite entertaining.

Quite often, I explore uncharted territories when I talk to my father, and I find this quite refreshing. I love exchanging ideas with both of my parents. I learn from their experiences and the thought that I can talk to them about their past, present and future makes me smile. I feel so lucky that my parents trust me with other people's as well as their own skeletons—I mean, stories.

If I were to give one advice to people my age or even to the younger and older generations, it would be this: "Do yourself a favor by talking to your parents. Get to know them. Dig as much *tsismis* as you can from them. Their lives and stories aren't as boring as you think. Besides, we only live once. Why not make the most out of it? You'll understand yourself more when you know where you really came from."

My youngest brother and me often kid each other that it's not surprising that we grew up as weird as we are now. We have a sick humor, we make fun of people (in front of them or not), we laugh out loud whenever and wherever we feel like doing it, we make weird faces, we see some things and get a kick out of them but we don't really care much for them. We're just having fun. We never fail to amuse one another. We laugh at our parents, our parents make fun of us, and we laugh at one another, together. In short, one amuses the other all the time. And it is never tiring.

Guess where we got that? We got it from, who else, but our parents, of course. My brother and I agree that it runs in the family. Our other relatives may just have not realized it yet.

Now that I've written all this, I hope you see the point I am trying to make: that being *tsismosa* isn't at all bad. As long as it's done in moderation and you make sure you get something positive out of it. Admit it, we all talk and mind other people's business. We'll always be affected by other people because we are all connected in one way or the other—the same way my father's, mother's, or brothers' opinions and actions affect me. But lucky for me, I already know where they're coming from.

Laarni Joy V. Salvan, 22, is a faculty member at Southville International School and Colleges.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS

Eugenia Duran Apostol

Dictatorship cloaked in democracy

THE RAMPANT HUMAN RIGHTS violations under the Arroyo administration and her penchant for issuing policies that have curtailed the freedoms of speech and assembly, have been likened to the tyranny that reigned over our country during the time of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Although one cannot deny that the Arroyo administration is treading the path toward tyranny and authoritarian rule, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo differs from Marcos in that, at least, the late strongman openly acknowledged his tyranny by placing the country by declaring martial law.

Herein lies the major difference between GMA and Marcos. Marcos was a dictator whose power did not emanate from the people's sovereign will but from a proclamation assigning all the powers of the state to himself. But GMA is plunging the country toward tyranny while maintaining that she is doing this to protect sovereignty and democracy.

The hypocrisy or double standard of democracy under GMA can be clearly illustrated in her 2006 State of the Nation Address, saying that extrajudicial killings have no place under a democracy as she lauded Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan—the man blamed by human rights groups as the main perpetrator of the killings, and whose pronouncements in media show an utter disregard for human rights—for his efforts in the war against the communist insurgency.

This hypocrisy can be seen in GMA's insistence that she represents the people's sovereign will when in fact, her legitimacy has been in question ever since the Garci tapes exposé; and when instead of heeding calls for her to step down from power, she has done everything in her power to silence the opposition and dissent.

If by subversion we mean an act that undermines the rule of law and the duly constituted state or civilian authority, then it is GMA and her minions who are guilty of this act by continuing to subvert democratic processes and curtailing constitutionally guaranteed liberties.

If by terrorism we mean acts that endanger the people's security and threaten political stability, then it is GMA and her favorite Palparan who are guilty of terrorism, perpetrating a rule of terror in the countryside that further sows the seeds of political unrest and instability.

Marcos was a dictator, but at least Proclamation 1081 made sure that we understood that he was one. Now we have a President trying to make us believe that her administration's tyranny is for the good of democracy. We would like to remind GMA that "the rule of law" does not mean the arbitrary use of government power, and that democracy only becomes a true democracy if it is based on respect for human rights.

—SR. CRESCENCIA LUCERO,
executive director,
Task Force Detainees
of the Philippines,
45 St. Mary St., Cubao, QC

Nursing exam leakage: a mother's plea to the PRC

I AM A MOTHER OF A NEWLY registered nurse. I was once an instructor and I understand and empathize with the sentiments of the members of the Philippine Nursing Association. But as a mother, I deeply feel the anguish that the leakage in the June 2006 nursing licensure exam has caused my daughter and family.

As a government employee, providing for our family's basic needs with a meager income is a struggle. We incurred huge debts while my daughter was in school. We sent her to the best school in Manila. Believing in quality education as well as the support of the College Assurance Plan, we were forced to let her continue her studies even though it was beyond our financial capacity. Another exam would cost us a fortune.

My point here is: conduct a thorough investigation to identify and punish the culprits behind the leakage. The leakage was a wake-up call for education officials. Sad to say, we have always been reactive rather than proactive.

All right, the students are no longer going to pay the examination fees should they be made to take the board exam again. But what about those who are in provinces that are far from the examination centers? Who's going to shoulder again the fare and the board and lodging of the examinees? And what about the time and the mental anguish they have again to go through as they do their best just so they can pass the exam?

My suggestion—call this an appeal—to the Professional Regulation Commission is for its officials to look deeper into the root cause of the problem, never mind that such an exercise might be too late. I was hopeful and prayerful that they haven't thrown caution to the wind by saying that the successful examinees of that June board exam would have a hard time finding a job in a hospital here and abroad. I believe it was too unfair for those who studied hard to pass the exam. Identify those who caused this problem and spare the innocent.

Let me reiterate: let's move on to the real issue; punish only those behind this scandal. Let us strengthen the PRC system. Let us examine our values, and inculcate and reinforce them in our children.

I am against a "retake." I am for being fair and objective. Our institutions and hospitals should exercise prudence and should not be judgmental. Let there be a win-win solution to this scandal, and let that be one that will reduce the stress, the pain and the emotional and financial anguish of everyone concerned, most of all, the innocent.

—CHERIBIN MENA K. VILORIA,
OSWDS, Cotabato City

Arroyos deserve no apology without a waiver

"THE FIRST FAMILY SHOULD BE transparent enough." This must be the response to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's dare for Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano to be man enough and admit his mistakes. (PDI, 9/5/06)

The certification that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo got from a bank in Germany is nothing but a useless piece of paper meant to make an impression that the First Family is hiding nothing. If the members of Mike Arroyo's family have really nothing to hide from public scrutiny, then, they should accept the challenge of Cayetano—they should execute a waiver. Without a waiver, no bank will give information on anybody's deposits lest it be charged with violation of Republic Act 1405.

RA 1405 provides four instances where bank deposits may be disclosed or looked into, as follows: (1) upon written permission of the depositor or (2) in cases of impeachment or (3) upon order of a competent court in cases of bribery or dereliction of duty or (4) in cases where the money deposited or invested is the subject matter of the litigation.

Once they execute the waiver, the Arroyos deserve an apology from Cayetano if the latter fails to substantiate his claim that they have millions of pesos in bank deposits. No waiver, no apology.

—CARLITO D. BISA,
Pallocan West,
Batangas City 4200,

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Nothing wrong with living abroad

JIM PAREDES' DECISION TO seek permanent residency in Australia is a private decision that unfortunately became public. There is nothing wrong in deciding to live overseas as long as we are honest about the reasons for doing so. In a globalized society, people migrate for a variety of reasons.

However, Paredes is a public figure and the actions and motives of public figures will always be under the spotlight. His reply to his critics smacks of sour grapes. There is a big difference between taking a holiday and seeking permanent residency in another country. The former implies spending a bit of tourist dollars, taking nice pictures and having a grand time, while the latter implies joining and contributing to one's adopted country.

Permanent residency may lead to a new citizenship and this demands full-time contribution to the adopted country, even to render military service if so required. Thus, there are a lot of moral and ethical questions on dual citizenship and allegiance.

I was an overseas Filipino in Australia for a few years and I saw a lot of the country. From Mount Isa to Hobart, I never met a *kababayan* who had no regrets about leaving Inang Bayan.

While overseas Filipinos may not say it, their expressions belie what they feel. This I feel is the biggest tragedy of our people. Like many Filipinos, I am sick of the politics here, not only in the corridors of power but even in my workplace. But there will be politics everywhere, even in Australia.

While Paredes finds many things in Australia working well, not everything does. It is good that he intends to see Australia from the Top End to Perth and to Tasmania. Then he will see that there are things that are found wanting in Australia as he saw *"sa Inang Bayan."*

I wish Paredes well. Good on ya, mate! We have to make the Philippines work despite all odds (and frustrations!), and some of us will have to be here. *Para sa Inang Bayan*. I hope to meet Paredes in Sydney, one of these days.

—BEN VALLEJO JR., Ph.D.,
College of Science,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

Chuidian airs side on 'Tidcorp' L/C

IN THE APRIL 26 ISSUE OF THE INQUIRER, lawyer Antero M. Sison Jr. justifies "with some pride," the purchase by Tidcorp of a disputed L/C from Fidelity Partners Inc. for the sum of US$4.8 million. Truth to tell, the L/C belongs to me, and Tidcorp bought a useless, valueless and worthless scrap of paper for the following reasons:

1. Fidelity Partners had sued Tidcorp at the Makati RTC on Dec. 18, 1995. The case was dismissed with finality on Aug. 2, 1996 because Fidelity could not afford to pay the filing fees.

2. The source of the L/C was a judgment won by Vicente B. Chuidian in Philguarantee vs ARCI, which was confirmed on June 20, 1986 by the California Supreme Court; the questioned L/C itself was issued by PNB on Dec. 12, 1985. Under Article 1144 of the Philippine Civil Code, all judgments and contracts are barred by prescription after 10 years.

3. The PNB L/C was attached by the Sandiganbayan on July 14, 1993 in Republic vs Vicente B. Chuidian; consequently, the L/C has at all material times been in *custodia legis*, which means that the L/C could not have been legally disposed of, transferred, or in any way impaired without the prior consent of the Sandiganbayan.

4. The PNB L/C was sold by the US Court on an "as is where is basis and subject to whatever liens, claims, encumbrances, defenses and set-off rights which any person may have to the judgment"; it was sold for the sum of $1—repeat, one US dollar. Correspondingly, the sale Fidelity was subject to my rights and claims over the L/C. The truth is, I was not informed of the $1-sale—I could have afforded that.

5. Previous to the $4.8-million sale, Fidelity had earlier offered in writing to sell the L/C for $150,000. At the time, I wrote Victor Macalincag of Tidcorp (copy furnished the national treasurer and the Sandiganbayan) on July 30, 1999, warning that L/C No. SFD-005-85 was in *custodia legis*; therefore, buying the same without prior court approval was an act of contempt and an act of fraud under RA 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

6. As to Sison's assertions of non-liability and my supposed non-ownership, in Chuidian vs Sandiganbayan, the Supreme Court ruled on July 31, 2006, as follows:

"Chuidian remains the lawful payee-beneficiary of L/C No. SFD-005-85, until such time that the government, thru any of its agencies or any other interested party, is able to successfully prove in the proper forum that Chuidian has no right or no longer any right to claim the proceeds of the L/C."

7. Lastly, the Tidcorp purchase of the L/C was by a contract dated Feb. 28, 2003, wherein the $4.8 million was not even mentioned—the amount surfaced in an INQUIRER story on July 23, 2004 where Tidcorp president, Joel Valdez, admitted such sum after an earlier INQUIRER story reported he had been fired by Malacañang for the L/C purchase.

—VICENTE B. CHUIDIAN,
Chuidian Law Office,
2230 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

The good side about missing mail

I SHARE LETTER-SENDER NINA Gomez's feelings about missing mail. (PDI, 9/5/06) I, too, have to often wonder where all my undelivered mail go. Once, I received three letters which were meant for another person. When I informed our mailman about them, he just answered: *"Problema na niya 'yan.* (It's his problem)." That is how I got an idea where my missing mail have been going.

There was a time when I wouldn't get my week's copy of Time magazine on time; then, I would receive four issues at the end of the month. So I stopped my subscription. But there are other mail that are very important, about which the mailman may still not be aware of.

There was a time that a relative had to follow up her permit for a PRC (Professional Regulation Commission) exam with the postman several times. Her classmates had gotten theirs a month before. The postman just gave us two standard replies: *"Wala pa."* Or *"Pinadala na."* And there's no way we could argue with either answer. If you could match a soap opera star performance with pleas and matching tears, like my relative did, you might yet get positive results.

But some mail are lost forever in "postal space"—no, not outer space—which could be a space in some room.

Even with the advent of the faster and more efficient e-mail, I still decided to just grin and bear the inefficiency, and then tried to look at the good side.

Hey, there is always one envelope that finds its way to our house, and that's the "Merry Christmas!" envelope.

Now, I ask the postmaster general—and all those who suffer under this so-called postal system of pilfered, tampered, lost and undelivered mail: does giving a Christmas "gift" mean you are thankful or hopeful?

—DITAS ROXAS,
575 Pk Masagana,
Romulo Highway, Tarlac City

Codal's conflicting theories and demands

NERI JAVIER COLMENARES OF THE COUNSELS for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) rails against the Commission on Elections for no reason. (PDI, 9/4/06)

How can the Comelec be accused of railroading Sigaw ng Bayan's petition for Charter change when it refused to take jurisdiction of that petition, conformably with the Supreme Court's ruling in the landmark case of Santiago vs Comelec? In support of his collusion theory, Colmenares describes a "Da Vinci-esque" scenario that has Sigaw ng Bayan, the Comelec and the Supreme Court plotting together to ensure the success of Charter change. And yet, Colmenares conveniently neglects to name a source of his fiction, much less offers proof that whoever "informed" him of this plot was telling the truth. Are we supposed to believe this story?

And now Codal "demands that the Comelec en banc allow objections to the signatures"? This is a position surpassingly strange for Codal to take, since it goes against its earlier demand for the Comelec to "dismiss the petition for being unconstitutional and violative of the permanent injunction of the Supreme Court." As it turned out, that was exactly what the Comelec did—it dismissed the petition; and now it is done with it. If Codal has other concerns, it should seek the proper forum: the Supreme Court.

—JAMES JIMENEZ,
director,
Education and Information Department,
Commission on Elections,
Intramuros, Manila

From Saguisag

IN ITS SEPT. 2 EDITORIAL, THE INQUIRER attributed to Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban this quote in a footnote: "There is a right way to do the right thing at the right time and for the right reason."

To be fair, he precisely said in that footnote: "To set the record straight, I first heard this (quote) from former Sen. Rene A.V. Saguisag."

—R.A.V. SAGUISAG,
4045 Bigasan St.,
Palanan, Makati City

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2 govs urge swift oil tanker removal

WITH A population of 470 people, 19.5-hectare Naoway Island doesn't get much attention from do-gooders even though fishing has stopped since bunker fuel oil stained its shores.

HAZEL P. VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—GOVERNORS JC RAHMAN NAVA of Guimaras and Joseph Marañon of Negros Occidental appealed for the swift removal of the bunker fuel from the sunken oil tanker and contaminated debris from the shoreline of Guimaras nearly a month after the oil spill began.

Nava said the presence of the tanker and the bulk of its cargo and the contaminated debris pose a constant threat to the health of the people and the environment.

Marañon said he was disgusted that no assurance has been given on when MT Solar I and its bunker fuel cargo will be removed from the site where it sank off the coast of Guimaras.

"As long as that bunker fuel remains down there it will pose a danger to Negros Occidental," he said.

The oil spill has affected 26 barangays in four towns in Guimaras and 29 barangays in two towns in Iloilo. It has also affected 7,676 families or 38,034 persons as of yesterday, according to a report of the Western Visayas Regional Disaster Coordinating Council.

The clean-up teams have collected 1,208.33 metric tons of oil-contaminated debris, which have been stockpiled near the shoreline.

Petron Corp. plans to transfer the debris in barges and ship them to a dumping ground somewhere in the Visayas. Petron spokesperson Carlos Tan refused to specify the area saying consultations were still being held.

The two barges arrived last weekend at the Cabalagnan Wharf in Nueva Valencia town but the loading of the debris was delayed after the Coast Guard discovered that two crew members of one of the tugboats towing the barges had fake licenses.

ROUNDUP

Woman's body found

HERMOSA, Bataan—A 76-year-old woman was found dead with a bullet wound in the chest on Sunday in Barangay Culis here. Police said the woman, Maria de Leon, could have been shot by a hunter looking for wild boar. A farmer was also shot and killed by three men in Barangay Calaylayan in Abucay town on Sunday. Police said the victim, Alfredo Soriano, 42, knew his attackers as he had told his wife, who was with him at that time, not to worry because he knew the group.

Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon

Pangil's 428th fiesta

PANGIL, Laguna—The town parish, which hosts the miraculous "Pregnant Madonna," is celebrating the 428th feast of its Marian patroness, the Nuestra Señora dela Natividad (Our Lady's Nativity), today. Don Bosco Bishop Most Rev. Leo M. Drona, a native of this parish, is expected to lead about 50 priests and thousands of parishioners and guests. The Pregnant Madonna, also known as the Nuestra Señora dela O', is the secondary patroness. It is widely believed that devotion to her had helped childless couples bear a child. This year's fiesta theme is: "The birth of our Blessed Mother signals the forthcoming hope for salvation and peace."

Inquirer Southern Luzon

4 priests ordained

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—San Pablo Diocesan Bishop Leo M. Drona yesterday ordained four deacons to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood and two brothers to the Diaconate at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church here. Ordained to the Order of Presbyters were Rey John Eudes Pangilinan, Angelo Justin Torres, Virgilio David Villamor and Rafael Augusto Suarez. Those for Diaconate are Melvin Stephen Gorecho and Mark Matthias Mandreza. All six are affiliated with the Consecrated Institutes of the Alliance of the Two Hearts Family.

Inquirer Southern Luzon

OFWs get help

VIGAN CITY—The provincial government is extending financial assistance to at least 100 overseas workers who have returned to the province from Lebanon. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said P10,000 would be given to each of the workers. "We know fully well what they have undergone and it is our share in rebuilding their lives," he said. Singson recently handed checks to 13 people who were among the workers who returned to the country in July after war broke out in Lebanon.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Tree planting in Marawi

MARAWI CITY—Students and alumni of the Mindanao State University (MSU) here started Sunday the school's share to the Green Earth-Philippines Program. MSU president Dr. Ricardo De Leon said they aim to plant about 900,000 trees within five years. MSU about 60,000 students here and in its satellite campuses in Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi and General Santos would be required to plant three trees a year, or a total of 900,000 trees in five years. He said MSU has partnered with Eco-Governance, a nongovernment organization funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

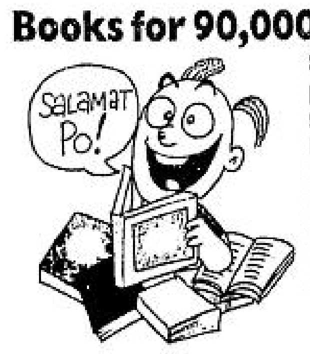
Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao

Floods displace 322

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two people were hurt while at least 75 families consisting of 322 dependents were displaced when flash floods struck Labangal village here on Tuesday afternoon, the city disaster office said Wednesday. The City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) said one of those injured was struck by a live wire. The CDCC said at least 68 houses were damaged by the flood. The displaced residents were temporarily staying at the grounds of the Balunto Elementary School, also in Labangal.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

Books for 90,000 kids



SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—The provincial government would distribute more books under the "Pagtoun Alang sa Masanag nga Kaugmaon (Learning for a Brighter Future)" program in a bid to combat illiteracy in the province. At least two container vans of books from the United States had already been distributed since the program was launched in 2003. Ferdinand Perez, provincial information officer, said they were targeting at least 90,000 school children this year. Perez said aside from the book distribution, the provincial government will also set up 16 computer laboratories in selected public secondary schools.

Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao

TUNGRO VIRUS

Disease kills ₱148M in palay

TUGUEGARAO CITY—AT LEAST P148 million worth of rice plants were destroyed by the crop disease tungro in Cagayan Valley, reports from the regional Department of Agriculture showed.

The DA said more than 24,408 hectares of farms planted to palay in the region have been attacked by leafhoppers, the insects that carry the tungro virus.

Gumersindo Lasam, DA regional director, has ordered officials of the National Irrigation Administration to stop releasing water to rice fields in the region from Oct. 15 to Dec. 1 to stop the infestation.

DA officials said agriculture officers in various towns have asked farmers to stop planting to break the infestation but their pleas were ignored.

Agriculturists Lety Bacud and Juliet Pedroso, of the regional DA, said leafhoppers carrying the tungro virus attack newly planted palay, thus farmers must stop planting to break the infestation.

Isabela suffers

Records from the regional DA office showed that Isabela incurred the heaviest losses at P143.9 million. But records from the Isabela agriculture office showed that crop losses in the province have reached P180 million.

The DA said farmers in Cagayan lost P3.8 million while those in Nueva Vizcaya lost P503,184 to the infestation.

In Isabela, Danilo Tumamao, head of the Isabela agriculture office, said rice farms in San Mateo, Ramon, Gamu and Roxas towns suffered the heaviest losses.

Tungro is caused by the rice tungro bacciliform virus (RTBV) and rice tungro spherical virus (RTSV), according to the Philippine Rice Institute (PhilRice) website (www.philrice.gov.ph).

The presence of one or both viruses in the plant produces different symptoms such as spotted leaves, mild to severe stunting, mild yellowing of leaves, and yellow to orange leaves.

Carrier

It said the only means of transmission is through the green leafhopper (*berdeng ngusong kabayo*) that feeds primarily on rice, especially on young and susceptible rice plants.

Aside from diseases and pests, farmers also suffer heavy losses during typhoons that wreak havoc not only on farms but also infrastructure.

Another pest that ravaged farms in other parts of the country was the Malaysian black bug. *Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

2 people killed, 6 others hurt in GenSan market grenade blast

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—TWO people were killed while six others were wounded when a grenade exploded near the city's public market around 6:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Chief Supt. German Doria, Central Mindanao police chief, said two suspects—one of them injured in the explosion—were now in police custody.

But Doria declined to name the suspects, saying they were minors.

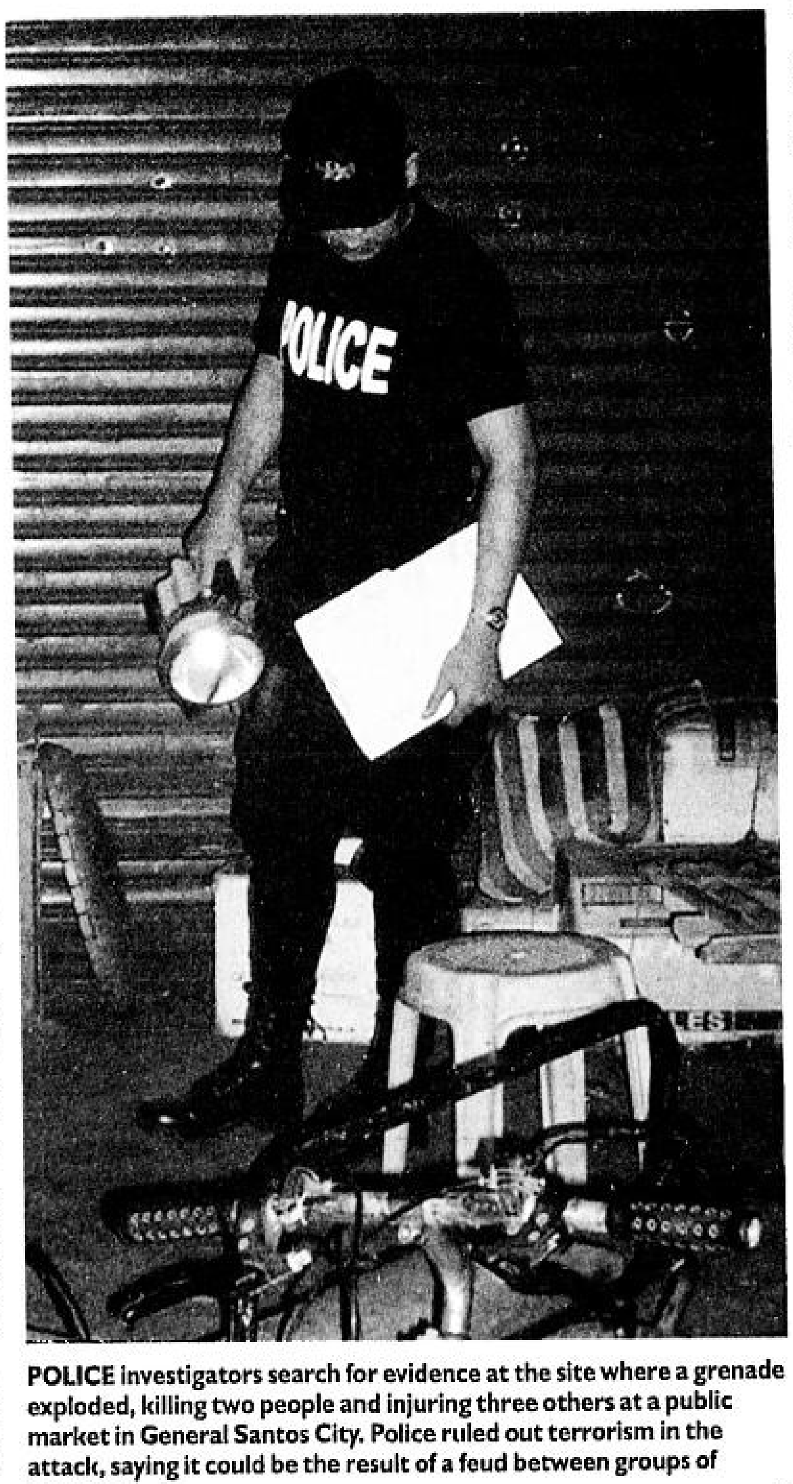
"Minors are protected under the Juvenile Justice Act and the Anti-Child Abuse and Welfare Act. But the suspects had already admitted responsibility for the incident," Doria said.

He said the suspects—aged 16 and 17—were market vendors and that the police were looking at grudge as the motive for the grenade attack.

"There were no outside forces involved. This could possibly be the offshoot of a squabble between two groups of vendors at the city public market," Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. also said.

Doria said the police were also investigating how the suspects managed to get hold of the grenade, an MK-2 fragmentation grenade commonly used by the military.

In many places of Mindanao, grenades could easily be bought for P500 from corrupt soldiers. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*



POLICE investigators search for evidence at the site where a grenade exploded, killing two people and injuring three others at a public market in General Santos City. Police ruled out terrorism in the attack, saying it could be the result of a feud between groups of vendors.

AP

General tells soldiers: Heal fast, avenge Marines' deaths

ZAMBOANGA CITY—MAJ. GEN. Eugenio Cedo, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, has urged wounded soldiers to hasten their recuperation so they could go back to Sulu and avenge the death of their comrades.

At least a dozen soldiers have already died since the military launched Oplan Ultimatum, its most ambitious plan yet to flush out the Abu Sayyaf and alleged foreign terrorists identified with the Jemaah Islamiyah from the island-province.

During a recent visit to about 40 wounded soldiers being treated at the military's Don Basilio Navarro Hospital here, Cedo said the soldiers should go back to service as soon as they can.

"Heal your wounds, go back to Sulu and avenge their death, fight the Abu Sayyaf," Cedo said as he distributed P125,000 in aid to the injured soldiers.

Cedo also repeated the military's pledge that the operation in Sulu—which has already displaced hundreds of families—would intensify.

He said he was counting on the wounded soldiers to continue the fight.

But Jose Manuel Mamauag, human rights director for Western Mindanao, said Cedo's call for vengeance was a reckless statement.

"It is a reckless statement that would create feeling of nervousness and apprehension to the noncombatants," Mamauag said.

He said Cedo's statement was irresponsible.

"A responsible regional military officer like him should not issue such as an irresponsible statement," Mamauag said.

The word avenge, Mamauag said, is already considered an encouragement to commit vendetta.

"Soldiers must always abide by the rules of war. Vendetta is a violation of International Humanitarian Laws and what Cedo said was an encouragement for soldiers to commit war crimes," he said.

Pfc. Russel Panaga of the Marines said what Cedo must be trying to say was that wounded soldiers should go back to service as soon as they can.

"Getting killed during war is part of the risk of our job. There's no need to avenge anybody," he said.

Panaga's group was involved in Monday's clash in Patikul, where six Marines had been killed.

He was among the 20 soldiers wounded in the clash.

Pfc. Arnold Nialla, who lost his close friend Pfc. Harold Almodobar in the clash, agreed with Panaga.

"We do not seek revenge. We only defend the people," he said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Gang with acetylene torches pull off Virac's biggest heist

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—A GANG using acetylene torches struck at one of this capital town's biggest pawnshops, taking cash, jewelry and cell phones valued anywhere from P7.5 million to P18 million last Sept. 7.

The robbery, the biggest to have occurred on the island in recent years, occurred as the Philippine National Police was celebrating National Crime Prevention Week.

A vault custodian and two coworkers at the D. A. Abella Pawnshop discovered the robbery when they found the shop, along Rizal Avenue, in disarray.

According to police officers and some residents who requested anonymity, the suspects apparently checked in at a nearby lodging establishment and then rented a vacant store located in the same compound as the pawnshop.

One of the suspects, who spoke Tagalog, had the building caretaker take him to the back of the rented store from where the back of the pawnshop could be seen.

Having paid the rental in advance, the suspects left on board a white van and came back in the afternoon to request that they be given the key to the store so they could move in plywood and other materials supposedly needed for renovation.

Sometime during the night, the perpetrators allegedly checked out of the lodging establishment carrying bulky bags and apparently went back to the rented store.

They entered the pawnshop by forcibly opening the wood-and-GI sheet window at the back and then cutting the iron grills inside with a welding gear.

Once inside, the culprits draped a dark blue *maong* cloth on the counter window to prevent light from shining through it and the accordion door outside.

Using a small gas tank bought from a local supplier, the robbers cut open a one-square foot hole on the steel main vault and opened the heavy door.

Inside, they pried open a second vault and emptied it of its valuables. They also ransacked a cabinet.

The thieves left behind the gas tank, an improvised crow bar and several fingerprints. *Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

FROG TRAP RAY ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Children from Barangay Amanoaoac in Mapandan, Pangasinan busy themselves angling for frogs in a rice field in their village. Edible frogs are abundant in the area especially during the rainy season.

Families of slain rob suspects cry rubout

BALIUAG, BULACAN—THE FAMILIES of six suspected members of a robbery gang who were killed in an encounter with the police on Wednesday here, have called for the relief of the town's police chief for the killings.

Miguelito Legaspi, son of Leovino Legaspi, 66, one of those killed in the encounter, said the slain gang members were innocent.

Police had said there should be no doubt about the operation because it was part of the police's campaign to rid Central Luzon of highway robbers.

The younger Legaspi said the families of the victims would file charges against Supt. Jolly Dizon, police chief of this town, and other policemen involved in the gunfight.

"We always assumed that the police would protect us, but we did not realize they would be the ones to kill the innocent like my father—an old, sick man—who was shot like an animal," the young Legaspi said in Filipino.

Weak, old

He said his father was "too weak and old" to be involved in any crime being linked to the group.

The older Legaspi was a former sheriff at the Bulacan Regional Trial Court in Malolos before he retired in 2001. He worked as a caretaker in a funeral parlor near the karaoke bar where he and his five companions were killed.

Judge Danilo Manalastas, of the Bulacan Regional Trial Court, echoed the young Legaspi's sentiment, saying it was "impossible for Legaspi to be involved in a robbery gang because of his age, good character and poor health."

"I don't believe what the police are saying. Even when he was younger, Legaspi could not do such a thing. He had always been very polite and kind," the judge said.

Legaspi was not mentioned in the initial police report as among those killed in the shooting.

In a report to the Bulacan provincial police, Dizon identified the fatalities as Hinorio Simbulan alias Ka Nori, a suspected member of the communist breakaway group Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB); Jayson and Arnel Ramos, Renato Balajadia, Daniel Piosco and Florentino Mallari Jr.

Similar features

The INQUIRER later learned from the victims' families that the bodies initially identified as those of the Ramoses were those of Daniel Simbulan and Leovino Legaspi.

Dizon said the features of Simbulan and Legaspi were similar to the descriptions of the two Ramoses in their gallery of criminals.

He said the suspects who engaged the police in the gunfight were members of the Shotgun Gang who were linked to a series of robberies here.

The gang members were inside the Janet's Videoke Bar on B. S. Aquino Street when they allegedly exchanged fire with the policemen.

But some witnesses interviewed by the INQUIRER denied there was a gunfight inside the bar. They said the policemen suddenly barged into the bar, asked all the female personnel to get out and shot dead the suspects. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Ship carrying coal for cement plant barred from docking at Sual town port

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—A vessel delivering coal to a cement factory in the province was not allowed to unload its cargo at the fish port in Sual town due to lack of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The vessel, which belonged to the Saturn Cement Marketing Corp., was earlier refused entry at the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City in La Union because of alleged environmental violations.

It docked at the Sual seaport on Tuesday, but residents raised concerns about environmental hazards that could be posed by unloading the 1,020 metric tons of coal carried by the vessel that came from Mariveles, Bataan.

Sual Mayor John Arcinue said he did not allow the vessel to unload its cargo on Wednesday.

A representative of its consignee, the Northern Cement Corp. based in Sison town, arrived on Thursday to talk with fish port officials.

Romulo Adviento, port manager, said he asked the firm's representative to get the necessary documents, such as permits from the Philippine Ports Authority and the Bureau of Customs, before they could allow the firm to unload.

While the company was able to produce the documents on Thursday, local officials and the residents still refused to allow the vessel to unload its cargo.

A meeting between Sual officials, port officials, barangay council members, representatives of the Philippine Coast Guard and residents was held on Friday to discuss the issue.

They found that while the company has an ECC from the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, the ECC covered only its docking at the Poro Point seaport.

"Its ECC does not cover [the vessel's] docking at the Sual fish port," Adviento said.

He said the Fisheries Development Authority advised him to get a waiver from the local government and concerned agencies that they were allowing the vessel to discharge its cargo at the fish port.

"But the consensus was that the vessel must not be allowed to unload at the fish port," said Nelly Pastor, executive assistant at the mayor's office.

"We can't let them unload even only half of the cargo as requested by the consignee because that would mean 35 to 40 truckloads [of coal] that would be unloaded. We can't compromise when it comes to the environment," Pastor said.

Adviento said they would not allow any vessel carrying similar cargoes to berth at the fish port because the facility has no capability to handle such environmentally hazardous material. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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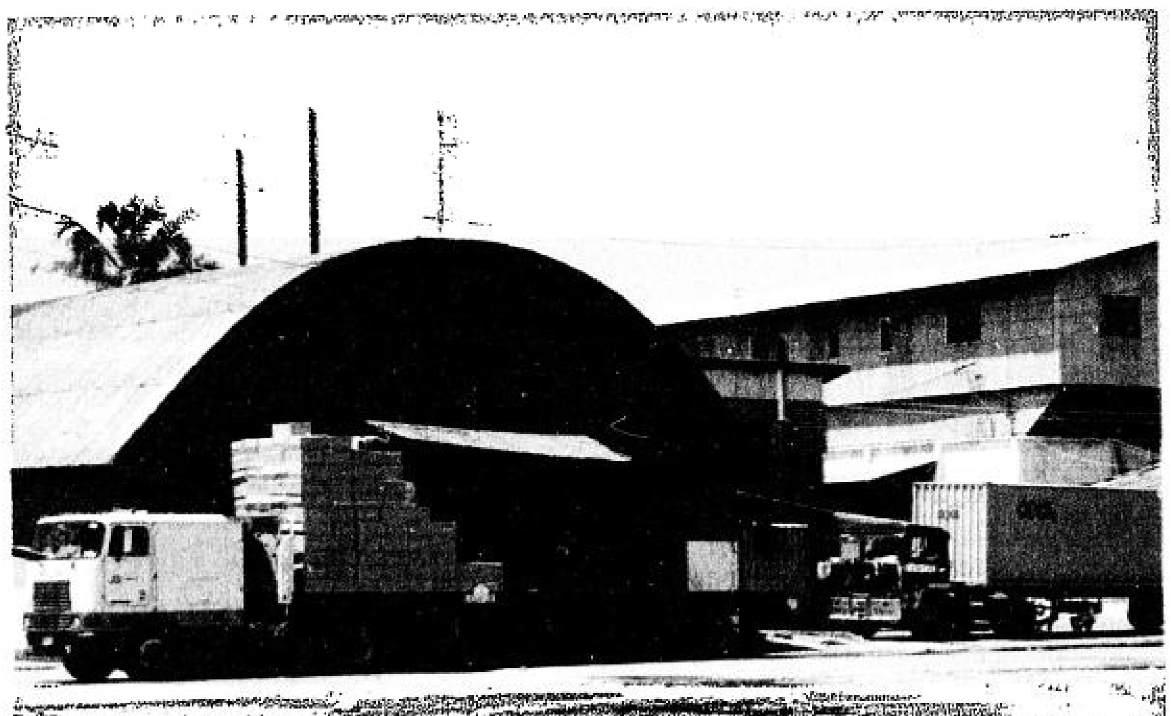

IDLE warehouses at the Poro Point seaport await cargo. TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Traders uneasy on Poro Pt. port row

DAGUPAN CITY—BUSINESSMEN using the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City are still hesitant to order their vessels to dock at the port because of the ongoing government effort to take over the facility.

This, despite a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Court of Appeals that stopped the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from implementing the cease-and-desist order it issued against the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), and an injunction issued by the regional trial court in San Fernando City against the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and other agencies from taking over the port.

At least three fertilizer companies, whose vessels had docked at the seaport on Aug. 5, suffered huge losses from demurrage and detention fees while the conflict dragged, said Nomer Merfe, operations manager of Soil Tech Agricultural Products Corp.

Merfe said Soil Tech had three vessels docked at the seaport when the DENR issued the CDO against PPIC.

"The PPIC told us to leave the port on Aug. 5 but it did not inform us of the reason [why we had to leave]. We only found out later that [the firm] was issued a CDO. Then, the PPA took over the operations and we were able to dock and unload again. But the PPA later received the TRO and diverted the vessels to the Subic Bay Freeport [in Zambales]," he said.

Soil Tech, he said, had already paid the PPIC P800,000 in berthing and security maintenance fees for its two vessels when the PPA assumed operations of the port. But the PPA, Merfe said, also asked their firm to pay berthing fees.

Merfe said like the other fertilizer companies, Soil Tech wanted the management issues to be settled first before their vessels return to Poro Point. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Businessmen ask GMA to step in on port rates

A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN IS asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to step into the feud at the Poro Point seaport, complaining of what they described as excessive charges imposed by the PPIC.

Among the businessmen who signed the petition were Conrado Chua, president of the Phil. Wood Producers Association Pangasinan; Samson Filomen, head of the Fertilizer Dealers and Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative; Rodilon Banez, head of the Pangasinan Electric Cooperative Consumer Group of Rosales; Ponciano V. Onia, president of the Abono Farmers Group; Danilo C. Uy, official of the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce; and Danny C. Sim, chair of the Association of Fertilizer and Pesticide Distributors, Dealers and Outlets of Pangasinan.

Jose Alvarez, chair of the Phil. Phospate Fertilizer Corp., said in a letter in answer to an inquiry that the PPIC was charging P20 per metric ton as terminal fee and collecting port fees that are 35 percent higher than the Currimao Port and 20 percent higher than the port of Manila. •

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Biliran revisits past on 'Pueblo Day'

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Biliran, Biliran

A STRUCTURE at the Nasunugan Ruins in Biliran, a legacy of Padre Gaspar's reign in the 1770s.
PDI FILE PHOTO

THE OLDEST TOWN IN BILIRAN PROVINCE will mark its 294th founding anniversary when it celebrates its first ever "Pueblo Day" on Sept. 10.

"We seek to reach out to our historic past to find inspiration for our present and future endeavors," said Biliran Mayor Pablo A. Mejia III in underscoring the relevance of the occasion. Theme of the celebration is "Biliran: Hadto, Yana ngan an Tiarabut (Biliran: Then, Now and the Forthcoming)."

The municipal government has lined up various activities for the Boro-Biliran Festival on Sept. 4-10. Main attractions are an agricultural fair at the bus terminal, a field demonstration of traditional games and sports, and an exhibit of local memorabilia and heritage items at the Enage Ancestral House.

Government, youth, nongovernment and socioreligious groups will join an "anniversary build" activity to construct several houses for the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Village, which shall benefit poor families.

Cultural shows and socials will be held during the evenings at the plaza.

Other activities include supplemental feeding for children, medical-dental consultations, mass wedding, playground demonstrations by local schools, and the 5th Mayor Kokong Mejia Tennis Cup tournament.

Isla de Panamao

The pueblo (town) of Biliran was created on Sept. 12, 1712, when the island was then known as Isla de Panamao.

Panamao (read: *pan-amaw*) was described in the Alcina manuscript of 1668 as a heavy-duty net used to catch large species of fish, including tuna and mantas. It was also used to catch *duyung*, the sea cows that are now extinct.

The natives were accustomed to set the *pan-amaw* on land to catch wild hogs and other animals. This type of net is called the *batung* in our time.

"Biliran" might have been the Bisayan label for those six Spanish galleons that were built on Isla de Panamao from the 1580s to the early 1600s. But the name, which referred to the protruding, curve-angled "corner or edge of a boat," failed to replace the borrowed words *barko* and *bapor* (steamboat).

The meaning of the word "biliran" underwent a lot of sea change since its mention as an entry in the ancient dictionary, "Vocabulario de la Lengua Bisaya," compiled by Fr. Mateo Sanchez, SJ, in Dagami, Leyte, in 1616.

This dictionary was published in Manila a century later, in 1711. By then, "biliran" had an additional meaning, "the furrow made by the plow." The farm implement was popularized by the Augustinians in Leyte, who replaced the Jesuits in 1768.

The current interpretation of the word was proposed by the late Justice Norberto Romualdez a century ago. He theorized that the name Biliran was derived from a grass called *borobiliran* (lit., similar to *biliran*), which was used for making mats.

Poblacion site

The original *poblacion* (town center) of Biliran pueblo was in Sitio Ilawod of Barangay Caraycaray, in the present town of Naval, along the river about "1.5 to 2 leagues" (5 km) from the sea.

A Moro attack on May 26, 1754, devastated the town. The raiders razed and destroyed all houses and planted fields, plundered and stole jewels from the church, and captured many inhabitants, except the *gobernadorcillo* (mayor) and the *fiscal* (treasurer) who had escaped.

The raiders also burned all the houses and destroyed the settlements of Caybiran, Mapuyo and Maripipi in other parts of the pueblo.

Biliran had its first resident parish priest when Don Gaspar Ignacio de Guevara was appointed curate of the San Juan Nepomuceno Parish on Oct. 10, 1765. Padre Gaspar, as he was known in local legend, was a secular priest born in Paranas, Samar.

Padre Gaspar was presumably aware of the devastating 1754 Moro raids when he accepted his assignment to Biliran. Among his first acts was the transfer of the *poblacion* from Caraycaray southeast toward the then forested foothills in the vicinity of the present Barangay Canila, 8 km northeast of the present town center of Biliran.

St. Peter in Biliran

But Padre Gaspar had his own delusions. He called the new settlement Albacea, the Spanish for "executor of the testament." In the forest commune, he set up a sanctuary, enthroned himself on the "chair of Peter" with the royal throne on Biliran Island, and styled himself as the "first among the priests of the world."

From his sanctuary, Padre Gaspar spread his doctrines, granted indulgences, spread news of miracles in the Leyte-Samar region, recruited and sent disciples to incite revolts, conferred sacred orders, gave out offices, legislated, and threatened those who opposed him.

Together with an *alcalde mayor* (governor) that he appointed, he fought the Franciscan friars in Samar and the Augustinian friars in Leyte.

Padre Gaspar ordained sub-deacons and attracted a great number of followers, especially women. He also cordially treated and sheltered the Spanish *alcalde mayor* of Samar (which included Leyte until 1777), who also worked with him.

His influence was reportedly strong in virtually all pueblos of Samar Island, where women disciples set up sanctuaries and performed religious rituals with his blessing.

He also exerted influence in many pueblos of Leyte.

Padre Gaspar was captured and killed by Moro raiders sometime in 1774, after a decade of an event that this writer had labeled the "Biliran Religious Revolt" from 1765 to 1774.

Legacy

Extant folklore and many place-names around Biliran province provide details and nuances that point to Padre Gaspar's career as a revolutionary, though heretic priest. Almost all barangay names in Biliran town have connections to his work.

It appears that Padre Gaspar experimented with commune living. He might have imbibed the idea from the Jesuits in Samar before they were expelled from the Philippines in 1768. Around that era, Jesuits in South America conducted a similar utopian experiment among the Guarani Indians in the mountains of Paraguay.

The Jesuit experience was the theme of a critically acclaimed feature movie, "The Mission," which was released in 1986.

Millenarian movements that rose in the Leyte-Samar area during the revolutionary times had fought against the Spanish authorities in the late 1880s, against the American colonizers at the turn of the previous century, and against Filipinos guerrillas during World War II. They adopted social structures similar to that of Padre Gaspar's commune in the 1770s.

A modern-day manifestation of Padre Gaspar's legacy is the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), incorporated in 1965 and now based on Dinagat Island in Surigao del Norte. Its founding group of *tambalan* (traditional medicine men), who practiced their trade in Kawayan, Biliran, claimed to have inherited the miraculous cane of their saintly Padre Gaspar.

A pageant about the life of Padre Gaspar was originally planned to be presented during this year's maiden festival in Biliran town. But lack of funds forced the organizers to defer the activity until next year, said George M. Plecerda, the mayor's secretary who serves as the unofficial guardian of his town's heritage.

RESIDENTS of Luzaran and Sumirib, La Paz, Iloilo, wait for relief goods as eating and catching fish is prohibited in areas affected by bunker oil.
ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

REQUEST FROM GUIMARAS

Soap, toothpaste for evacuees

By Hazel P. Villa
Nueva Valencia, Guimaras

THANKS FOR THE FOOD, but we also need soap and toothpaste."

Evacuees in Nueva Valencia town and those residing in Guimaras islands smeared by bunker fuel oil from MT Solar 1 that sank off the province's southern part on Aug. 11 are thankful for the food and water provided by government institutions, Petron Corp. and donors, but the evacuees said they badly needed toothpaste and body and laundry soap.

The Red Cross Guimaras Chapter said that even before residents of hard-hit areas in Cabalagnan, Lapaz and Tando were evacuated this week, they have been asking for soap and toothpaste.

Some 400 people or at least 134 families in the shorelines of Cabalagnan and Lapaz here have been evacuated or are staying with relatives.

Toxicity tests by Department of Health officials have shown high levels of hydrogen sulfide and aromatic hydrocarbons like benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene and xylene in the two coastal barangays.

"Aside from food items, people in affected areas are asking for stuff for their personal hygiene like bath soap, laundry soap and toothpaste because they don't have the money to buy these," said Anna Maria "Lally" Nava, officer in charge of the Red Cross Guimaras Chapter.

More than 6,000 families, or 30,531 persons, in the coastal areas of four towns in Guimaras and two towns in Iloilo have been affected by the oil spill as of Sept. 1, said the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council.

Nava, wife of Jordan mayor Felipe Nava (brother of Gov. JC Rahman Nava), said the Red Cross and other relief agencies have mostly received canned goods, rice and noodles but not much of coffee, sugar and milk, which the affected residents were also asking for.

The Red Cross said small islets like Unisan, Panabulon, Naoway and Guiwanon in Nueva Valencia are also asking for food and hygiene supplies.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Luneta is not big enough for the unfolding of the biggest flag in the world.

The Philippine Flag

It seems that the unfurling of the biggest flag in the world - which is a Philippine flag - will have to be postponed.

Due to the sheer size of the flag, the organizers, namely **HalleluYAH PG Tower Ministries Int'l.**, is hard pressed to find a suitable and respectable venue where the flag can be properly spread out.

The event was supposed to be held at the Quirino Grandstand and Luneta, but it seems even these places have insufficient land area for the flag to be unfurled.

Once **HalleluYAH PG Tower Ministries Int'l.** is able to find a big enough place befitting the respect that must be accorded to the Philippine Flag, all media outfits and newspapers will be notified through the proper channels.

EZ2: 26 4 | FOUR DIGIT: 4 5 6 9
SUERTRES Evening: 4 8 7 | Mid-Day: 8 5 3
(All in exact order)

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WEEKEND TREATS

Oil firms cut gas, diesel prices

By Abigail L. Ho

A WEEKEND TREAT for motorists.

Oil firms yesterday brought down the prices of gasoline and kerosene by P1 a liter and diesel by 50 centavos a liter.

The pump price cuts by the country's three largest oil firms, Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc., took effect at 2 p.m. yesterday, followed by Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. at 10 p.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V adjusted their prices similarly at 12:01 a.m. today.

The oil firms cited the downward movement of international oil prices as the reason for the pump price rollback.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude plunged to a September average of $64.45 a barrel from $68.93 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products drastically dropped to an average of $69.15 a barrel in the first seven days of the month from the August average of $81.61 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel fell to an average of $84.79 a barrel in the Sept. 1-7 period from the $87.37-a-barrel average registered last month.

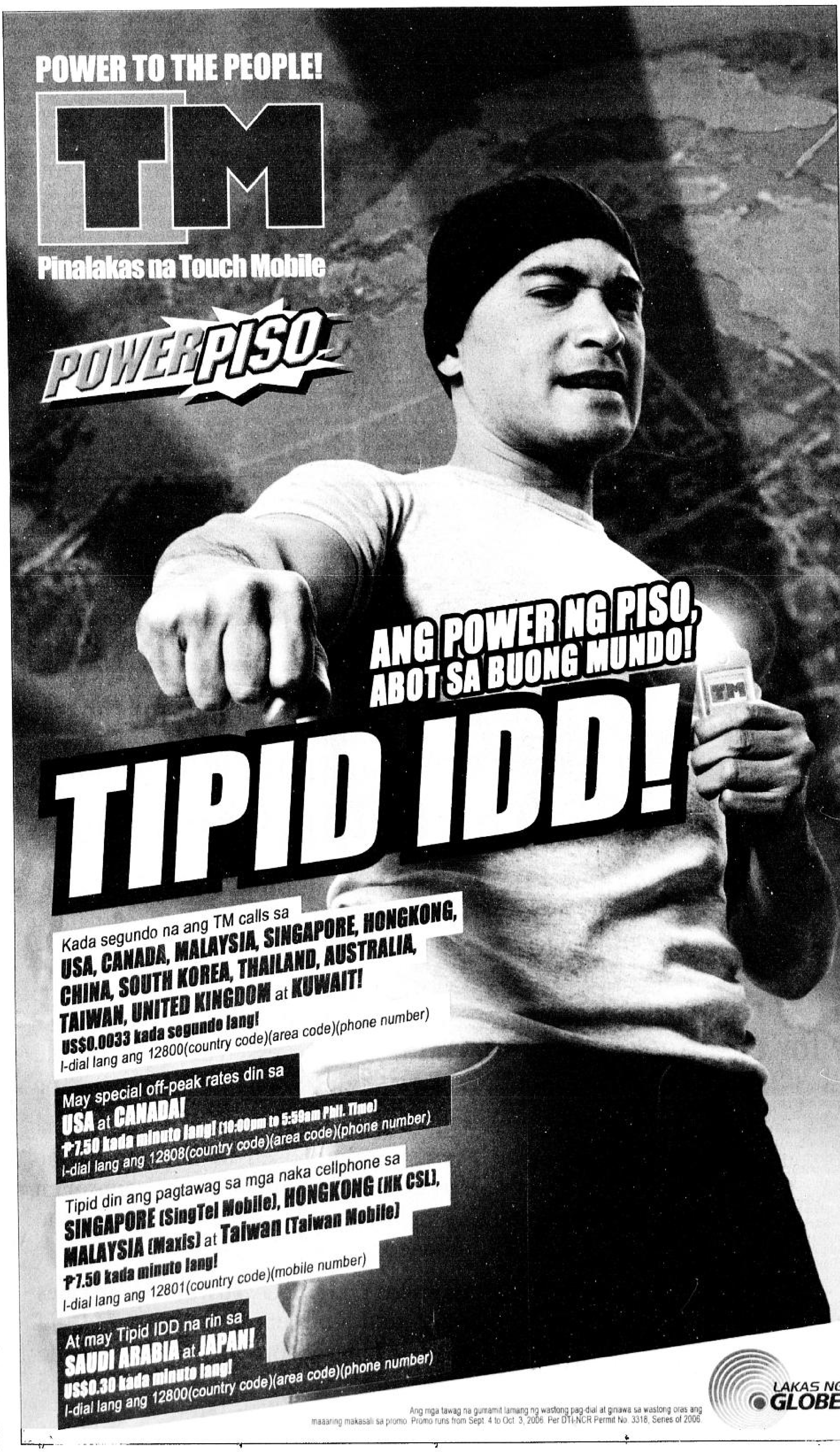
Since the start of the year, oil firms have raised gasoline prices 18 times by a total of P9 a liter.

Diesel prices have risen 15 times by a total of P7.50 a liter, while kerosene prices have increased 19 times by a total of P9.50 a liter.

This is the third consecutive week that oil firms have brought fuel prices down.

Yesterday's rollback brings premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P40.24 and P43.10 a liter, diesel to between P34.85 and P37.05 a liter, and kerosene to between P38.19 and P43 a liter.

All prices are inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax.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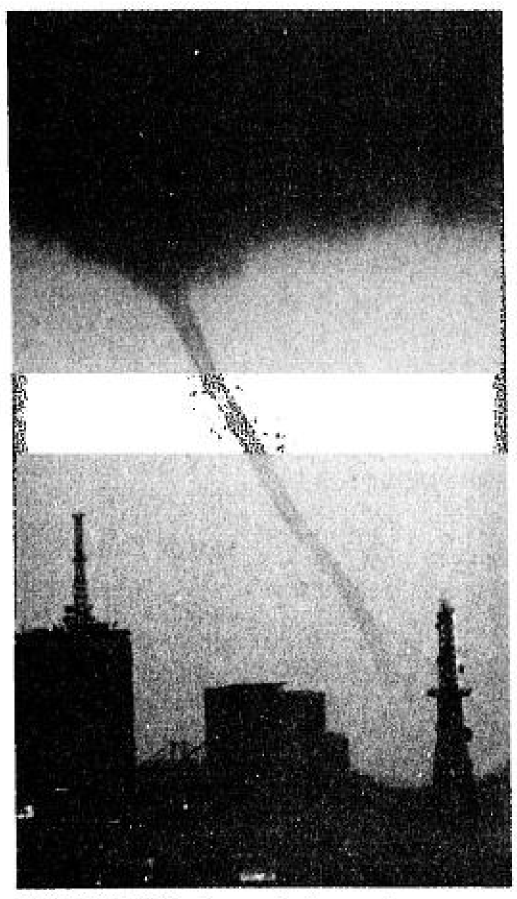
US$0.30 kada minuto lang!
I-dial lang ang 12800(country code)(area code)(phone number)

Ang mga tawag na gumamit lamang ng wastong pag-dial at ginawa sa wastong oras ang maaaring makasali sa promo. Promo runs from Sept. 4 to Oct. 3, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3318, Series of 2006.

LAKAS NG GLOBE



TWISTER. A freelance photographer climbed a building on Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City, and took a picture of this tornado yesterday at 6:06 p.m. At right is the PLDT tower on Quezon Boulevard which seems to be at the windstorm's tail end.

ARMAN CLEMENTE/CONTRIBUTOR

RP officials visit Bolante in Wisconsin detention cell

By Volt Contreras

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE OFFICIALS SAW the controversial Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante at his detention cell in Wisconsin last week, but maintained that the visit only centered on his "health concerns" and did not touch on his bid for political asylum in the US.

"While Mr. Bolante's health has suffered while in detention, he informed the visiting Consular Officials that his current health concerns are being adequately addressed by detention officials," the Philippine Embassy said in a statement yesterday.

The mission recalled that the family of the former Agriculture undersecretary earlier requested assistance, prompting consulate officials in Chicago, an hour's drive from his detention facility, to see him last Sept. 1.

The embassy was silent on Bolante's legal predicament, saying "discussions between the visiting Consular Officials and Mr. Bolante were limited to his health issues."

It nevertheless kept mum on what ailed Bolante, widely believed to be the chief architect of the P728-million fertilizer scam which allegedly helped ensure President Macapagal-Arröyo's victory in the 2004 polls.

Bolante was the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the Senate when arrested by US immigration officials last July for entering the US with a cancelled visa. He was initially held at the San Pedro Detention Facility in Los Angeles.

He requested last month that his case be transferred to Chicago, a move seen by administration critics as a delaying tactic and an attempt to avoid the mostly LA based reporters keeping track of his case.

Currently held at the Kenosha County Detention Center in Wisconsin, Bolante is reportedly seeking political asylum in the US, claiming he has been targeted for assassination by the communist New People's Army.

But he had declined legal assistance coming from the government.

As to the recent jail visit, the Philippine Embassy said it was only exercising its "commitment to the safety, health and welfare" of Filipino nationals under its jurisdiction.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Dengue on rise in NCR

50 deaths in Metro recorded so far

A DENGUE patient is comforted by his mother at the Rizal Provincial Hospital. JOAN BONDOC

By Margaux C. Ortiz, Tarra V. Quismundo, Jocelyn R. Uy and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HEALTH OFFICIALS IN RIZAL PROVINCE are worried about the rapidly increasing number of deaths from dengue.

The province had registered 726 cases so far, the number rapidly increasing in the last three weeks, Rizal provincial health officer Iluminado Victoria told the INQUIRER.

The National Capital Region (NCR) registered the highest number of dengue cases in the country, with 50 recorded deaths, in the last eight months.

It was followed by Central Luzon and Central Visayas, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

Victoria said even more worrisome was the "sudden increase" in the number of deaths.

The Rizal provincial health office said at least 30 persons in Rizal had died of dengue fever this year. Twelve of the deaths occurred during the first seven months of the year.

The other 18 dengue deaths were registered only from Aug. 9.

Officials have advised residents not to take for granted symptoms like high fever.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said the problem was "some parents are not bringing their sick children to hospitals immediately."

The town has registered 123 dengue cases so far, with nine deaths, the highest in the province.

State of calamity

Three of Rizal's 13 towns have declared a state of calamity because of dengue: San Mateo, Morong and Teresa.

From January, 122 dengue cases and seven deaths were reported in San Mateo; 79 dengue cases and three deaths in Morong; 20 dengue cases and four deaths in Teresa.

The highest number of cases in the province—133—was reported in thickly populated Antipolo City.

Out of the 13 towns and one city in the province, only Pililia had not reported a single dengue case, provincial health office nurse Jesusa Oser said.

Though he did not provide exact figures, Victoria said the number of dengue cases in the province showed a sharp increase this year compared to last year.

He said they were also surprised by the sudden increase, adding that the heavy rains and the unpredictable weather the past few weeks could be a factor.

Clean surroundings

"We are advising residents to maintain cleanliness in their houses," Victoria said.

Mosquitoes spreading dengue fever breed in clear, stagnant water. Health officials have been reminding residents to drain containers, old tires, cans or bottles and even gutters which could hold rainwater.

A total of 13,468 cases and 167 dengue-related deaths were reported nationwide from Jan. 1 to Aug. 29, according to Dr. Eric Tayag, officer-in-charge of the DOH National Epidemiology Center.

Tayag said NCR reported 4,222 cases for the same period; Central Luzon, 1,898; and Central Visayas, 1,752. The DOH said children aged one month to four years were most vulnerable to the disease.

But Tayag advised against fogging activities. He said they should only be conducted in areas where there was an epidemic.

He explained that fogging, apart from giving a false sense of security, would affect the health of other residents.

The focus should instead be on searching for and destruction of mosquito breeding places with the use of insecticide, Tayag said.

In Makati City, Mayor Jejomar Binay ordered yesterday an intensified cleanup of campuses and barangays to reduce the incidence of dengue.

City Hall said Makati registered one of the lowest incidence of dengue in Metro Manila, with 59 cases reported last month.

City health officer Ma. Lourdes Salud said dengue incidence was reduced in the city because of intensive cleanup operations in communities and schools and regular larvae trapping in barangays.

The Taguig City Health Office, on the other hand, asked residents to remove old rubber tires from their rooftops.

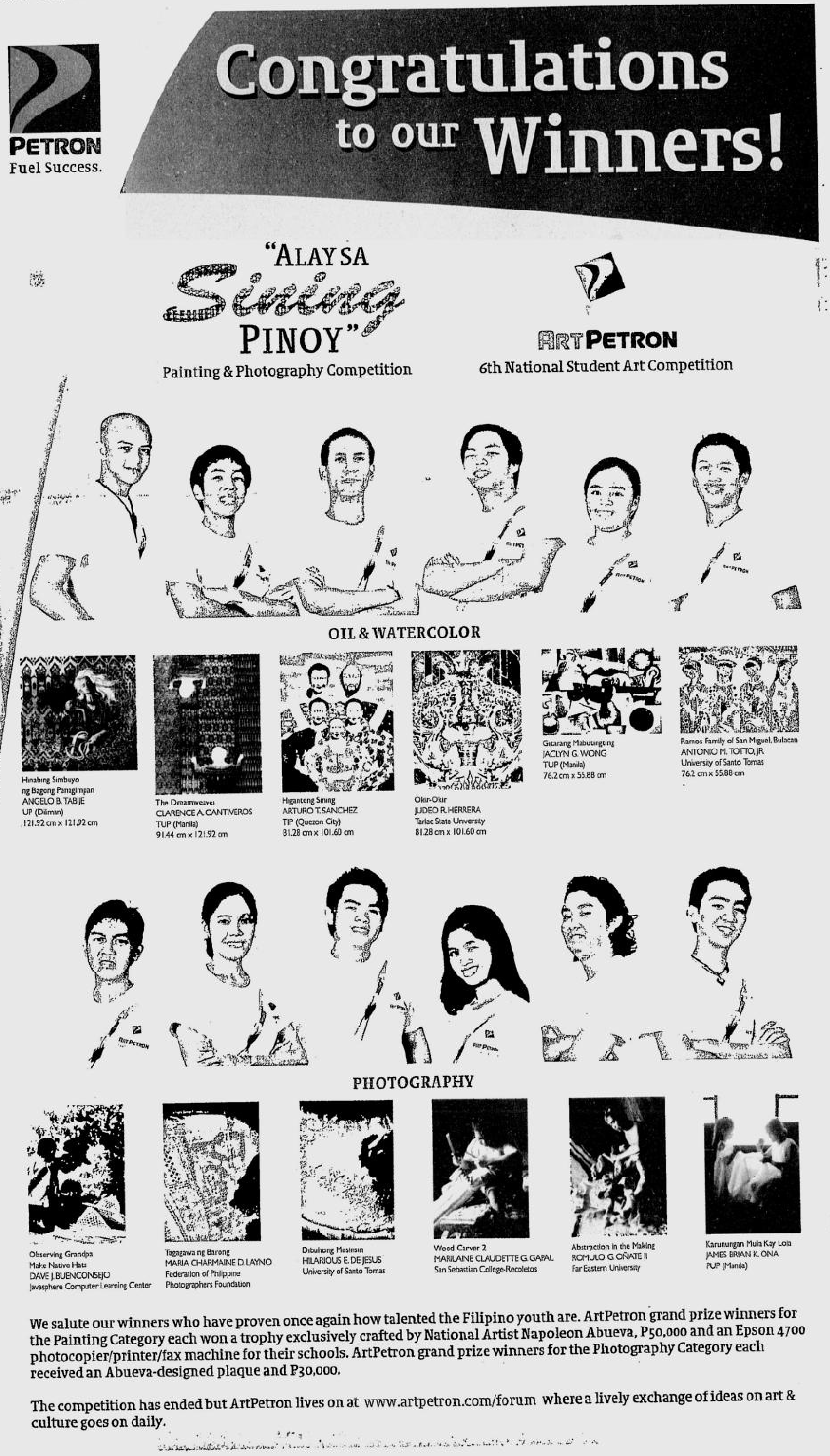
Dr. Rolando Paac, city health officer, also directed a composite team of health personnel, employees of the General Services Office, engineering department, barangay officials and the local police to confiscate rubber tires.

However, realizing that some people used the tires to keep their roofs in place, the health office said holes should be made so the tires would not hold water.

Dengue coordinator Dr. Gigi Monsod said Taguig had a total of 135 dengue cases and five deaths from January to Sept. 7. The total was lower than last year's 166 cases for the same period.

Mayor Freddie Tinga announced yesterday he sent barangay health workers to bring sick children to the health centers for free blood platelets testing.

"We regularly clean our government buildings. But (private properties) should also be kept clean," Cuerpo said.



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TUP (Manila)
91.44 cm x 121.92 cm

Higanteng Sining
ARTURO T. SANCHEZ
TIP (Quezon City)
81.28 cm x 101.60 cm

Okir-Okir
JUDEO R. HERRERA
Tarlac State University
81.28 cm x 101.60 cm

Gitarang Mabutingting
JACLYN G. WONG
TUP (Manila)
76.2 cm x 55.88 cm

Ramos Family of San Miguel, Bulacan
ANTONIO M. TOTTO, JR.
University of Santo Tomas
76.2 cm x 55.88 cm

PHOTOGRAPHY

Observing Grandpa Make Native Hats
DAVE J. BUENCONSEJO
Javasphere Computer Learning Center

Tagagawa ng Barong
MARIA CHARMAINE D. LAYNO
Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation

Dibuhong Masinsin
HILARIOUS E. DE JESUS
University of Santo Tomas

Wood Carver 2
MARILAINE CLAUDETTE G. GAPAL
San Sebastian College-Recoletos

Abstraction in the Making
ROMULO G. OÑATE II
Far Eastern University

Karunungan Mula Kay Lola
JAMES BRIAN K. ONA
PUP (Manila)

We salute our winners who have proven once again how talented the Filipino youth are. ArtPetron grand prize winners for the Painting Category each won a trophy exclusively crafted by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, P50,000 and an Epson 4700 photocopier/printer/fax machine for their schools. ArtPetron grand prize winners for the Photography Category each received an Abueva-designed plaque and P30,000.

The competition has ended but ArtPetron lives on at www.artpetron.com/forum where a lively exchange of ideas on art & culture goes on daily.

Tulfos face robbery, extortion cases

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation charged yesterday newspaper columnist Ramon Tulfo and his brothers Raffy and Erwin with five counts of robbery/extortion.

The charges stemmed from complaints filed by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) commandant and four Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel against the brothers.

It followed the arrest of the Tulfo brothers' alleged "bagman" Jimmy Salgado of No. 2153 Narra St., United 1, Parañaque City. Salgado, who was allowed to post bail, allegedly told BOC personnel Dolores Domingo and Chito Orbeta, both assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport I, that Raffy Tulfo made some accusations against them that would be published in his "Shoot to Kill" column. NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda said an investigation by the unit showed that in March 2002, Domingo and Orbeta decided to charge Tulfo with libel after Salgado threatened that a defamatory article would be published about them if they failed to pay P30,000-P50,000.

But in July 2006, another malicious article against Domingo and Orbeta appeared in Ramon's column in the INQUIRER, the complaint added. A few days later, Salgado approached the duo asking for P50,000 in exchange for the "cessation of further bad publicity," Esmeralda said. On Aug. 9, Domingo and Orbeta filed robbery/extortion, libel and harassment charges against Salgado and the Tulfos.

Salgado was arrested on the strength of an arrest warrant issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 58. Assisted by his lawyer, Christopher Orly Garcia, Salgado executed a sworn statement detailing the alleged extortion activities of the Tulfos, including another sibling, Erwin.

Salgado claimed he was "used" to collect money every month from BOC officials and employees so the brothers would stop coming out with negative reports on their radio programs and in their newspaper columns.

Four other BOC officials and employees—Horacio Suansing, Juan Tan, Lilian Veces and Amando Quebec—alleged they were also victims of threat and extortion. The NBI National Capital Region Office filed an additional robbery/extortion charge against Ramon and a certain Jocelyn Magnale for allegedly extorting P100,000 from PCG Commandant Arthur Gosingan in March 2004.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF NFA HELICOPTER (BELL JET)

The National Food Authority Central Office invites all interested parties to bid for the NFA Bell Jet Helicopter, description of which is as follows:

Brand	Bell Helicopter Textron
Model Number	Bell 206B
Serial No.	259
Year Manufactured	1968
Registration No.	RP-1997
Specifications	5 seater, including 2 pilots, 2-bladed main rotor blade, powered by 400shp single engine, Allison Model 250-C20, Serial No. CAE-823181, complete with standard avionics. With expired Certificate of Registration and Airworthiness, grounded since May 2003.
Minimum Bid Price	FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00)

Bid proposals shall be on "as-is-where-is" basis. Offerors shall be required to post a bid security equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the minimum bid price. It shall either be in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check payable to NFA.

Bid documents, such as tender form, including terms and conditions shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable / non-transferable fee of P20,000.00 not later than 2:00 p.m. on September 28, 2006. For further details, you may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone number 455-2758.

Activities relative to this bidding shall be held at the NFA Boardroom, 6th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pre-Bid Conference	- September 28, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
Receipt and Opening of Bids	- October 12, 2006
Submission of Bids	- 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Opening of Bids	- 2:00 p.m.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the BAC Chairperson shall be deemed final.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chairperson

(PDI – September 9 & 16, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT I *One (1) Year Contract for Internet Access Services* P1,900,128.00

Brief Description
The proposed service will render internet access to the wide area network (WAN) of SBMA. This service aims to provide fast and efficient way to promote SBMA on its business operations to attract and increase prospective investors and locators, to transfer information for educational and research purpose in order to keep abreast with the information technology and to communicate effectively using internet applications and resources.

LOT II *Services and Materials for Trimming of Trees along Argonaut Highway and Aerodrome Surveillance Radar Site at SBIA, SBFZ* P1,264,695.94

Brief Description
The scope shall cover the full numbers of trees needed to be trimmed for the attainment of visibility of Sta. Rita tower from the SBIA control tower and the unobstructed function of the Aerodrome Surveillance Radar. A 580 numbers of trees assessed and needed to be trimmed in this activity. The area for this will be subjected to inspection of the SBMA Ecology Center before and after the trimming operation.

LOT III *Various Construction and Electrical Supplies* P1,339,957.68

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar and related project within the last two (2) years for the supplies and three (3) years for the ISP services with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 11, 12 and 13, 2006 Monday to Wednesday (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm)	BAC Secretariat Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 14, 2006 Thursday (2:00 p.m.)	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
3. Opening of Bids	September 28, 2006 Thursday (2:00 p.m.)	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of ***P1,500.00*** to the SBMA Cashier at Bldg. 229 Waterfront Road, SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Aug. 26 & Sept. 9, 2006)

METROBRIEFS

Car thieves strike anew

CAR thieves took at gunpoint yesterday the car of a man who was also reportedly shot with stun gun when he resisted. Police identified the victim as Johnny Castillo, an air-conditioning contractor, who lost his Toyota Hi Lux, a 2006 model with plate number ZEU-540.The victim was about to board the vehicle parked near his home along J. J. Luna Street corner Pitimini Street, Barangay Paltok, when a Toyota Corolla with no plate number blocked his path. Two unidentified men armed with guns alighted from the vehicle and asked for his keys, said SPO1 Margonio de Castro of the Baler Police Station. Castillo tried to resist until one of the men shot him with a stun gun. The two men then boarded his Hi Lux and drove

DJ Yap

Pasay cops' relief sought

ACTING Pasay City Mayor Allan Panaligan yesterday sought the relief of 20 members of the police detachment in City Hall. Panaligan yesterday said he had asked city police chief Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio to replace all the policemen detailed to the building's detachment unit for "the safety of all city hall employees." Panaligan had also sought Valerio's relief the other day. "The City Hall's police detachment unit should have my trust and confidence," he told the INQUIRER. Panaligan said he was worried that members of the police detachment unit could have friends among the supporters of suspended mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, whom they could allow inside the City Hall which could raise tensions anew. Trinidad and 11 other Pasay officials were suspended by the Office of the Ombudsman for six months for alleged involvement in anomalous contracts for garbage collection and disposal worth more than P400 million. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

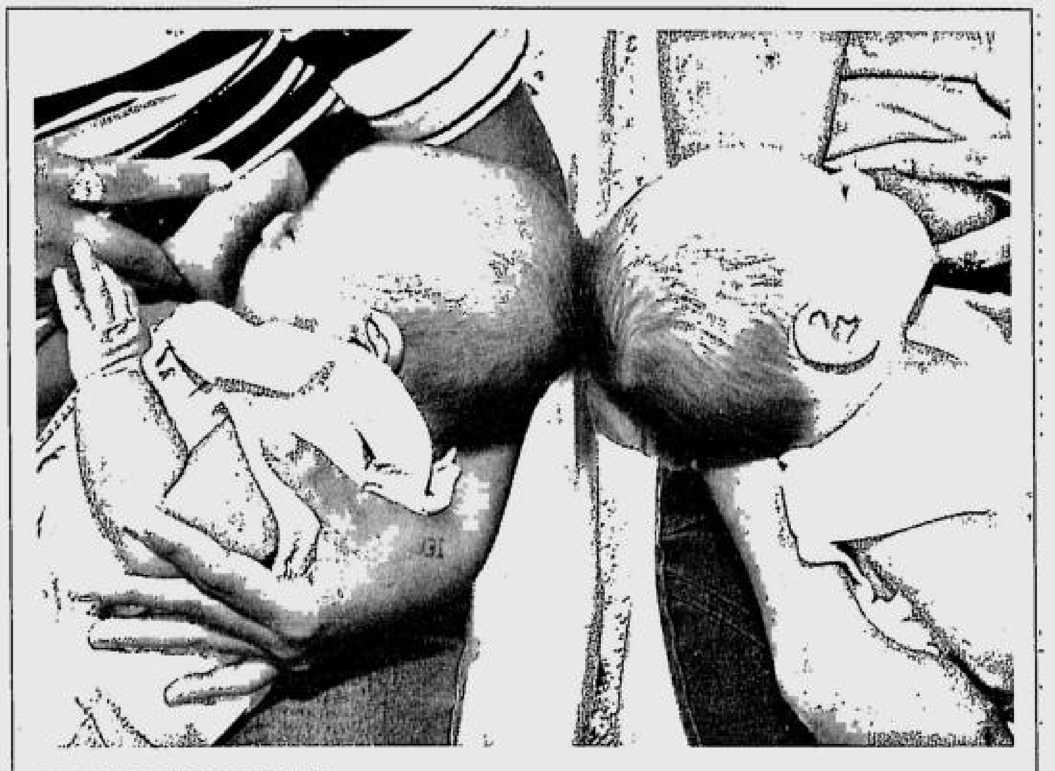
Business (not) as usual

BUSINESS was disrupted at a gasoline station along C-5 Road in Taguig City when a group of unidentified men hurled a smoke bomb into its parking lot before dawn yesterday. Pamfilo Tapil, the security guard of Petron gasoline station, immediately sought the help of the police after he saw a group of armed men on board a Ford Expedition and BMW lob a grenade into the parking lot at 1:42 a.m. yesterday. The bomb failed to explode, but the commotion sent customers of the gasoline station and a nearby 24-hour convenience store to panic. Senior Insp. Virgilio Pagtama, chief of Taguig's Special Weapons and Tactics team said the suspects could have planned to rob the gasoline station and used the smoke bomb to conceal their movements.

Jocelyn R. Uy

QTA 83rd anniversary

THE QUEZON (Tayabas) Association Inc., the socio-civic organization founded by the late President Manuel L. Quezon, will mark its 83rd anniversary with a grand ball at the Westin Philippine Plaza tonight. The event will also feature the induction of the new set of officers for 2006-2007 led by presidents Joey B. Uy and Edna A. Dy. Highlight of the affair is the coronation of the QTA 2006 muse, Jean Marie Uy. She will be escorted by Mark Francis Dy. Proceeds from the affair will go to the various scholarship and civic/community projects and programs of the association for 2006-2007.



DOUBLE EXPOSURE
Two mothers nurse their babies out for some sun after unexpected September showers kept them housebound the past few days. RAFFY LERMA

Probers look for more clues in media firm exec's death

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BENT AT DECIPHERING WHAT TALE THE victim's injuries could tell, investigators will meet with crime scene operatives to know exactly how media firm owner Delia Gutierrez died.

Makati Police Criminal Investigation Section chief Senior Insp. Gary Reyes said yesterday that homicide investigators and medicolegal officers of the Southern Police District Scene-of-the-Crime Operatives (SPD-SOCO) will soon meet to look for clues on how Gutierrez died.

"We will confer with them to help us clarify whether the injuries were indeed self-inflicted, as claimed by the husband, or inflicted by another person," Reyes said in an interview yesterday.

Gutierrez, president and chief executive officer of Media G8way Corp., was found dead inside a toilet at the 3rd floor of her office building on Rufino Street, Legazpi Village, Makati City, around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Her husband, Ibarra, found the 51-year-old executive behind the toilet's door.

In his sworn statement to police, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, the victim's husband said that upon seeing his wife bloodied on the toilet's floor, he immediately thought she had committed suicide.

"The first thought that came to my mind was that she killed herself because in the last two weeks, she seemed to be having a big problem which I knew concerned the office. I came near and looked if she had slashed her wrists," Gutierrez told police. "When I saw there was none, I looked if she had hit her head. And when I tried to to lift her to her side, I saw that a knife was still on her chest, and I pulled it out and tried to check her neck for a pulse," he continued. Upon further questioning by police, he said that upon finding his wife's body, he called a trusted employee, a certain May.

When the investigator asked why he chose the employee, he said: "*Dahil nga po sa akala ko ay nagpakamatay si* Delia *kaya si* May *ang tinawag ko at dahil sa hindi niya ito ikakalat* (Because I thought Delia killed herself that's why I called May, and I knew she won't spread the word).

Gutierrez's husband added that a little more than an hour before his wife was found dead, he noticed that she hardly spoke, did not eat and "had a distant stare." He further told police that his wife had been having problems with their publishing firm's financial state days before the tragedy.

"She had no reason to commit suicide," a relative of the victim told the INQUIRER yesterday. But she said nothing more on the matter. Delia's siblings also requested the media to give them privacy. Wreaths lined the hall outside a Funeraria Paz chapel at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City, where her body lies. *With Jo R. Uy*

Use of naked power

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HE WAS NOT CONTENTED HAVING MY program, "Isumbong Mo! (Tulfo Brothers)," taken off the air on the government-run RPN 9.

He was not satisfied after I resigned from station dwIZ, where I had my daily radio show, to relieve its owner, former Ambassador Antonio Cabangon Chua, of intense pressure from him.

He was not contented having all my Marine bodyguards, provided by President Macapagal-Arroyo, taken away.

He was not satisfied after filing libel cases against me and my brothers for exposing the alleged smuggling activities of the siblings Vicky and Tomas Toh. My publisher and editors at the INQUIRER and its sister publication, Bandera, were also made respondents in the libel suits.

Now, my erstwhile close friend and confidant, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, must be laughing his head off after the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed extortion cases yesterday against me and my brothers Erwin and Raffy.

I have taken everything in stride—being deprived of my TV and radio programs, having my bodyguards taken away from me, and then the libel suits Wednesday—but I have to admit the filing of extortion charges hurt.

The people who supposedly filed the extortion charges against me with the NBI, except for two, are not known to me. I haven't seen or met them in person.

Davao City Customs Collector John Tan is my friend and fellow Mindanaoan. But he vehemently denied to me he had anything to do with the extortion charges.

Jimmy Salgado, a former correspondent of dwIZ, was my legman at the Bureau of Customs, gathering information of interest for my column. I dissociated myself from him a long time ago when I learned he was using my name.

Before he went into hiding, Salgado called me to say he was pressured by NBI Agent Reynaldo Esmeralda into fabricating a story about me and my brothers "to please FG." FG stands for First Gentleman.

Salgado, who was crying as he told me about pressure from the NBI, asked my forgiveness before he hung up.

I have forgiven Jimmy and Rey Esmeralda, another friend and fellow Visayan, for persecuting me.

Jimmy and Rey, believe me, I understand!

But I can't understand why the President's husband would debase himself by throwing the toilet bowl, including what was in it, at me. His "dirty tricks" people have been spreading obscene caricatures of us, the Tulfo brothers, stark naked.

I can't understand why he would order the NBI to fabricate a story about my supposed extortion activities at the customs bureau.

The President's husband, who has everything at his fingertips, was my close friend and confidant. I could have taken advantage of that closeness by asking him for million-peso government contracts. I never did.

Why would I get "coffee money" from the customs when I had a well full of money and gold in front of me?

* * *

Mr. Arroyo, in filing those libel suits against me and the INQUIRER and Bandera editors, was clearly sending a strong message: "Don't mess with me."

The message is meant for all journalists who in the future might write critical commentaries or stories about him and the First Family.

* * *

Who is this chief inspector in the Philippine National Police (PNP), who supposedly has oodles and oodles of money in a European bank?

This chief inspector (military rank equivalent: major) is assigned to the Cordillera Autonomous Region. But reports say he's been commuting between Manila and a European country.

The police official was not at his post when I asked about him yesterday. He was reportedly in the United States.

You'll know more about this police major and his activities in subsequent columns.

THE NECK IS THEIR PROUDEST ASSET
Long-neck Karen hill tribe woman stand in line at Huy Pu Kaeng village in Mae Hong Son province, north of Bangkok Sept. 8. The long-neck Karen hill tribes have been living in this village for more than 14 years after fleeing Burma. Thai officials said the Burmese government have asked Thai authorities to repatriate the Padaung Burma. REUTERS

1,584 killed in Baghdad in August, morgue shows

BAGHDAD—MORE THAN 1,500 people were killed in Baghdad last month, down by only 14 percent from July, the health ministry said Friday, despite US claims that a security operation had cut murders by half.

"The Baghdad morgue received 1,584 bodies of people killed in violent attacks," Hakim al-Zamily, director general at the ministry said. The ministry reported 1,850 killings in the war-torn capital in July.

The health ministry figures fly in the face of Thursday's statement by the US-led forces chief spokesperson Major General William Caldwell that August's "murder rate in Baghdad dropped 52 percent from the daily rate for July."

However, another coalition spokesperson said on Friday that the US military figure for murders does not include those killed in Baghdad's daily suicide bombings and mortar attacks in crowded civilian areas.

"Murders are basically sectarian, when an individual is targeted in a sectarian related death such as an execution, but do not include such things as car bombs or mortar attacks," Lieutenant Colonel Barry Johnson told AFP.

This distinction, which had not been made clear earlier, could explain the discrepancy between the health ministry's figures and those of the coalition.

Almost every day, Iraqis trade salvos of mortar shells between Baghdad neighborhoods and trigger car bombs and booby traps in civilian areas as part of a vicious sectarian turf war between rival Sunni and Shiite factions.

At the same time, political assassinations and sectarian reprisals are carried out by shadowy death squads, who snatch their victims from their homes or the street, torture them to death and dump their bodies by the roadside.

Three civilian bystanders were killed on Friday when insurgents set off a roadside bomb against the convoy of a senior police officer, a security official said. Their deaths will not be included in US murder figures.

Baghdad police also said that they found the bodies of six men who had been first tortured and then shot dead, in the kind of apparent sectarian killings which are included in the shrinking US tally.

On June 14, US and Iraqi forces launched "Operation Together Forward," a massive security operation in the capital, in a bid to quell the violence and restore the battered authority of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government.

Despite the push, the number of violent deaths in July was the highest since the US-led invasion of March 2003. In August, however, US officers began to report the operation was succeeding in bringing down the death toll. *AFP*

Unlike UK's Blair, Japan's Koizumi gets out while the going's good

TOKYO—AS GROWING UNPOPULARITY forces British Prime Minister Tony Blair to spell out when he will quit, in Japan his counterpart Junichiro Koizumi is bowing out voluntarily with his star still shining.

The British Labor Party's longest-serving prime minister promised glumly on Thursday to hand over power within a year as a once enamored public tires of him and after several junior government members resigned.

Koizumi in contrast was at the top of his game one year before his exit, winning a landslide election victory. But despite still high public approval, he is stepping down and the race to succeed him opened Friday.

"It's remarkable. Politicians tend to overstay their welcome. They are not very good at guessing when to leave, but Koizumi has managed to," said Phil Deans, a British professor of international affairs at Temple University in Tokyo.

Koizumi, 64, and Blair, 53, are two of the closest allies of US President George W. Bush, who constitutionally stays in office until January 2009.

Koizumi took office in a party vote in April 2001 and quickly became one of Japan's most popular premiers, with a flamboyant style that broke the mould in the country's staid political circles.

His decision to leave now stems from the tight focus of his agenda, analysts said. He called last year's Sept. 11 election over his cherished plan to break up the giant post office monopoly—a goal he has now achieved.

"Koizumi probably thought it was time to step down now that his privatization of the post office has been carried out. I don't think he cares if his name is cursed at after he leaves," said Toshio Kamo, a politics professor at Osaka City University.

Koizumi has left his likely successor, Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe, with a host of unresolved issues including when to raise the consumption tax and how to repair relations with China, which soured due to Koizumi's visits to the controversial Yasukuni war shrine.

"A number of commentators have said that it was a final year of lost opportunities after he won the election in a way that gave him an enormous mandate," Deans said.

"But he was really obsessive about postal privatization and a lot of these other issues—Yasukuni, China—are really peripheral to his core," he said.

"It was almost as if he lost interest and that's similar to Blair, where New Labor has accused him of not doing enough with the very significant majority they have in parliament," he said, referring to moderates in the left-of-center party.

A more fitting parallel for Koizumi may be to another British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, who also led a conservative party and bulldozed through opposition to push free-market reforms.

"They were both radicals at the head of conservative parties," Deans said. "The Tory party had never been one for great change and was always one for incrementalism, but she completely transformed Britain and Koizumi was similar." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

6 world powers discuss 'next steps' for Iran

BERLIN—Six world powers discussed "the next steps in the (UN) Security Council" against Iran over its nuclear program, a senior European diplomat said in a clear allusion to possible sanctions. But while Thursday's talks were described as productive, Russia and China were said to still be reluctant to punish Iran for refusing to halt sensitive nuclear fuel work and rejoin international talks. "We had a first discussion of the next steps in the Security Council, following the lines of (Security Council) Resolution 1696," which calls for possible sanctions against Iran, said the diplomat who attended the Thursday meeting. Iran failed to meet an Aug. 31 deadline, laid out in the resolution, to freeze uranium enrichment, which makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material. Washington leads international concerns that Iran is covertly trying to develop nuclear weapons, something Tehran denies. *AFP*

Kabul suicide car bombing kills 16

KABUL—The deadliest suicide bombing in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban five years ago killed at least 16 people on Friday, up to seven of them foreigners, near the US embassy just before noon Islamic prayers. Police and rescue officials say at least 16 people, including up to seven foreign soldiers or security contractors, were killed in the blast that stripped trees and shattered windows for several hundred meters in either direction days before the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The attack, which witnesses said was aimed at a NATO convoy, was unusual. Normally, militants do not strike on Fridays. Taliban fighters began using suicide attacks late last year as part of a strategy to harry Western forces in Afghanistan and destabilize President Hamid Karzai's government. *Reuters*

44 dead in India mine collapse

RANCHI, INDIA—The bodies of 44 miners were found Friday after a coal mine collapse in eastern India and authorities said there was no hope of finding 10 more workers who remain missing. Tragedy struck late Wednesday when an explosion trapped the miners deep underground. Any workers who survived the initial blast would have been killed within minutes by deadly carbon monoxide gas, mine officials said. The blast could have been caused by highly-inflammable methane coming in contact with oxygen, officials said. Carbon monoxide readings taken in the shaft after the explosion showed the deadly gas was present at levels that would have caused death "in two to three minutes," BCCL's safety manager B. Ramarao said. *AFP*

$200M to fund hunt for Bin Laden

WASHINGTON—The US Senate on Thursday unanimously approved an additional 200 million dollars to this year's defense budget to fund an intelligence unit that would seek to hunt down top al-Qaida terrorist Osama bin Laden. The measure, approved by a vote of 96 to 0, would also require the US Defense Department to report to Congress every three months about progress made toward apprehending bin Laden, the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks. *AFP*

Warming taking Earth back to dinosaur era

NORWICH, ENGLAND—GLOBAL warming over the coming century could mean a return of temperatures last seen in the age of the dinosaur and lead to the extinction of up to half of all species, a scientist said on Thursday.

Not only will carbon dioxide levels be at the highest levels for 24 million years, but global average temperatures will be higher than for up to 10 million years, said Chris Thomas of the University of York.

Between 10 and 99 percent of species will be faced with atmospheric conditions that last existed before they evolved, and as a result, from 10-50 percent of them could disappear.

"We may very well already be on the breaking edge of a wave of mass extinctions," Thomas told the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Scientists predict average global temperatures will rise by between two and six degrees centigrade by 2100, mainly as a result of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide being pumped into the air from burning fossil fuels for transport and power.

"If the most extreme warming predicted takes place we will be going back to global temperatures not seen since the age of the dinosaur," Thomas said.

"We are starting to put these things into a historical perspective. These are conditions not seen for millions of years, so none of the species will have been subjected to them before," he added.

Thomas said scientific observations had already found that—as predicted by the climate models—80 percent of species had already begun moving their traditional territorial ranges in response to the changing climatic conditions. *Reuters*

A Tribute to Teache
DIWA

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Araneta Coliseum

Dr. Denis Waitley
Founding Director
National Council on Self-Esteem
from California, USA
Seeds of Greatness

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Senator
Republic of the Philippines
Hope at the Rainbow's End - The Solution to the Country's Education Problem

Hon. Jesli Lapus
Secretary
Department of Education
Vision for Philippine Education

Butch Jimenez
Senior Vice President
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.
To Innovate or To Relocate?

Francis Kong
President, Business Matters
Values Foundation
Are You Inspiring or Expiring?

Sandy Prieto - Romualdez
President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
Testimonial 1: A Tribute to My Teachers

Roselle Ambubuyog
1st visually impaired Summa Cum Laude
Ateneo de Manila University
Testimonial 2: A Tribute to My Teachers

with special guests:
Joseph Roche, SJ
Dr. Florentino Timbreza
Dr. Queena Lee-Chua
Ms. Feny Delos Angeles - Bautista

and performances by:
Dulce
Bituin Escalante
Mitch Valdes
Reuben Laurente of the vocal group, The Company

Event Partners
Pinaka pizza
Pizza Hut
INQUIRER
inq7.net
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hamson
TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION, INC.
Galing Pilipino
Oishi
GENYO
MICRODATA
HealthToday
MOMS
Mad Science
sanofi aventis
Microsoft
702

Official Venue
ARANETA CENTER
Produced by
Event Manager

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Video shows Bin Laden, planners of 9/11 attacks

CAIRO, EGYPT—FIVE YEARS AGO, IN THE SOARING mountains of Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden met with some of the men involved in planning the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

He had a video camera rolling to document the moment.

On Thursday, four days before the fifth anniversary of the attack, that tape was made public and broadcast on the Arabic news channel Al-Jazeera, allowing al-Qaida once again to command headlines, even as its leaders remain in hiding and its organization apparently has been fractured.

A day earlier, in an interview broadcast on CBS, President Bush said it was still important to capture bin Laden.

"Of course," Bush said in the interview with Katie Couric, just before giving a speech about his plans to put 14 terrorist suspects on trial. "It matters. He's the head of al-Qaida. But one thing is for certain, though, he's not moving like he used to.

"Another thing is," he added, "he's, you know, not communicating like he used to."

Just a few hours later, the previously unseen footage of bin Laden was being broadcast around the world, compliments of Al-Jazeera. The tape shows bin Laden meeting with a top lieutenant, Muhammad Atef, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2001, and Ramzi Binalshibh, one of the men accused of helping plan the Sept. 11 attacks, who was captured four years ago.

Bush announced Wednesday that Binalshibh was one of a small group of prisoners previously held in secret prisons who had been transferred to the prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. In Washington on Thursday, US intelligence officials said that they were studying the videotape but that they saw no immediate significance in its content or its release.

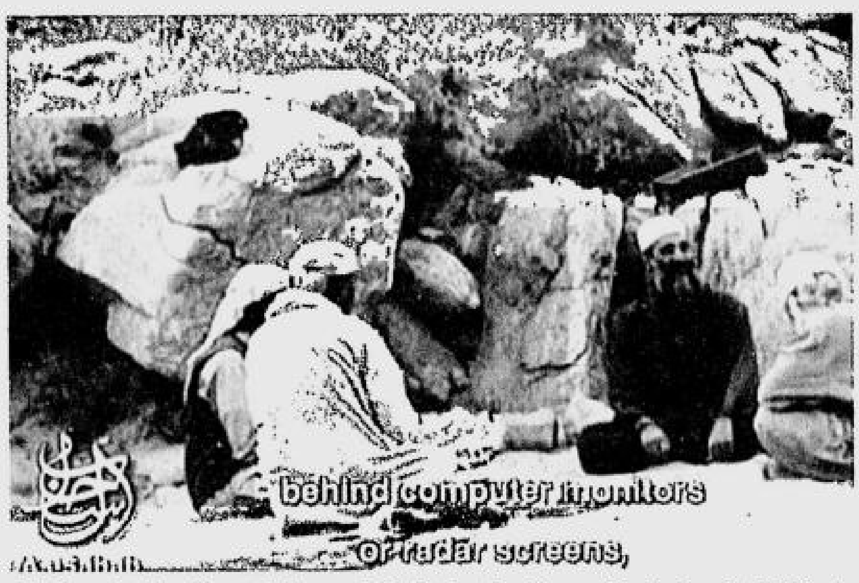
The reason for releasing the video seemed to be twofold: to try to breathe new life into al-Qaida's image, which has lately been overshadowed by the perceived success of Hezbollah in its recent war with Israel; and to warn the West that al-Qaida is still in the picture and that it had trained many fighters who can be seen in the video.

"This tape shows to the Americans that, even after five years, we are still in the position to attack you," said Marwan Shehadeh, an expert on Islamist movements in the Middle East who works in Jordan. "The Americans entered a war that they will not win."

He added, "They released the videotape to prove to the Americans that their strategy in the war against terror has failed."

Al-Jazeera, a satellite broadcaster based in Qatar, did not say how it received the video, and it was not available on the Web sites normally used by militant Islamic groups, including al-Qaida, to post messages.

New York Times



A TV grab taken Sept. 7 shows al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden (middle) at an undisclosed time and place in Afghanistan. AFP

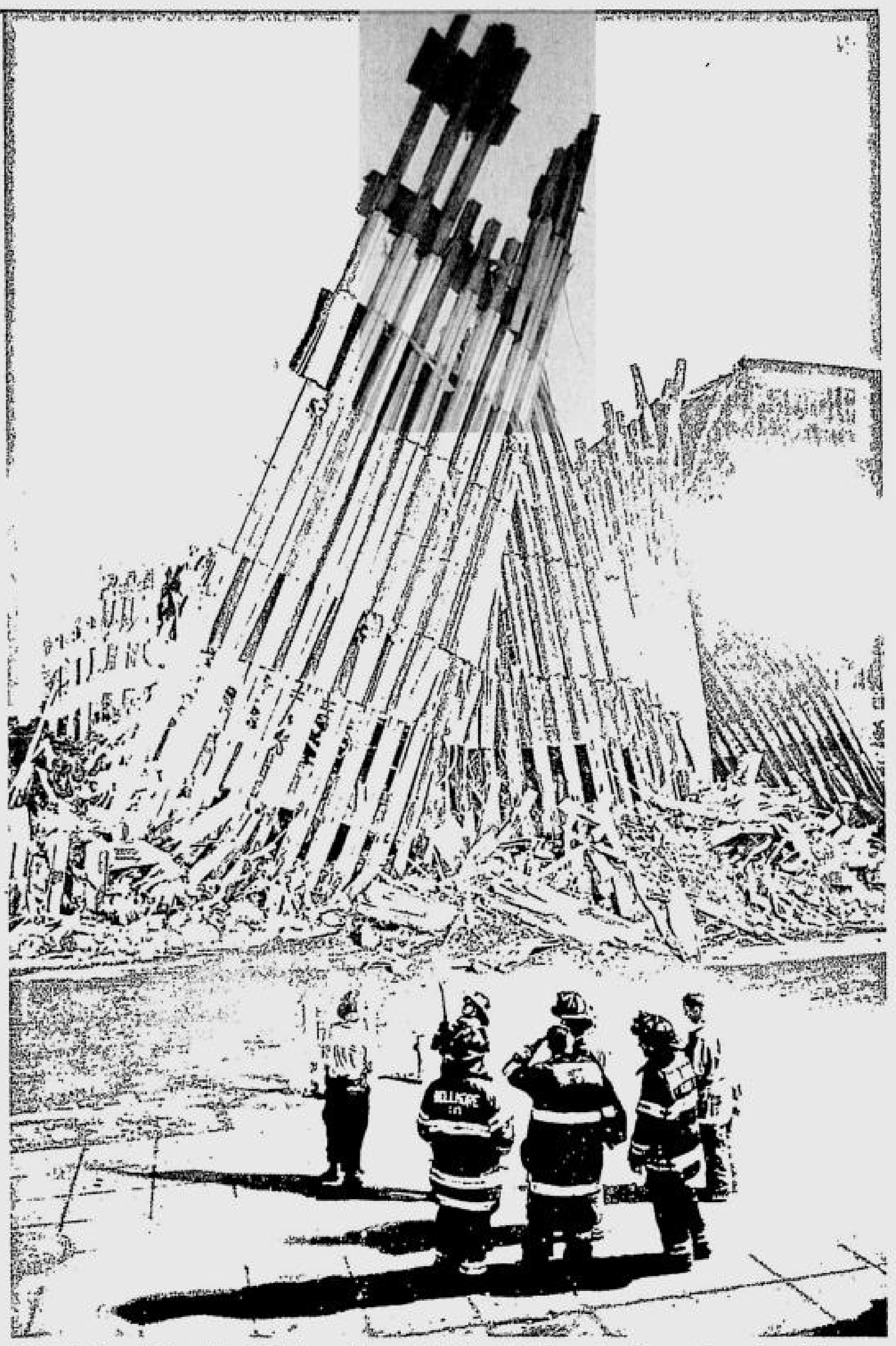


PHOTO dated Sept. 13, 2001 shows New York City firefighters looking at the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City. AFP

Al-Qaida losing support among world's Muslims, report says

LONDON—AL-QAEDA IS LOSING sympathy among the world's Muslims five years on from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

But al-Qaida's status as a global player has been unintentionally enhanced by the way the United States and its allies have reacted to the attacks, said the study published by Chatham House, a respected London-based foreign affairs think-tank.

Osama bin Laden's global terror network has forced Western policies towards the Muslim world to be examined and sparked a rise in homegrown terrorism in Europe, said the report titled "Al-Qaida Five Years On: Threats and Challenges."

And it has scored a propaganda gain by ingraining the link between terrorism and regional crises such as the war in Iraq or the Israel-Palestine conflict, it added.

Doctor Maha Azzam, the report's author, said that five years after al-Qaida crashed planes into the World Trade Center in New York and The Pentagon defense headquarters in Washington, a mixed picture of the network's fortunes was emerging.

"Although its image as a powerful terrorist organization has been enhanced, its leaders hide in caves and have lost the broad support of Muslims," she said.

"Al-Qaida's biggest success is that it has put on the table very clearly the link between regional crises and terrorism. Policy-makers are still in denial.

"It has forced Muslims and non-Muslims to say much more clearly that the policies of Western governments have consequences—including terrorism." According to the report, al-Qaida is facing a "very serious challenge to its legitimacy" after its terrorist activities in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan, causing a slump in support among Muslims.

"Once al-Qaida touched Muslim civilians, the message came out loud and clear. The wanton violence became very distasteful and they couldn't support it any longer," Azzam said.

"Al-Qaida has failed in its aspiration to win the hearts and minds of the Muslim masses, particularly because there has been a growing discomfort about the association between Islam and violence.

"While the message of al-Qaida resonates politically with many Muslims, there has been a clear withdrawal of support, even among the minority, for al-Qaida's violent tactics." Also, moderate, non-violent Islamist movements are witnessing an increase in fortunes, as evidenced by the electoral success achieved by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, September 9, 2006

PHILIPPINE IDOL
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	Anime Ring Kasho		PBA				Letty La Mas Fea		Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Philippine Idol			ABCinema		
ABS-CBN 2		Star Magic Presents		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog alog		Sports Unlimited
AXN		Stuart Little 2			WRC 2006: Japan		The Ultimate Fighter					The Contender (Season II)		House (Season II)		David Blaine Magic Man		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network		Camp Lazlo	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Powerpuff Girls	Robotboy	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	The Flintstones Meet The Jetsons-Appearances: Ignition/Sound Of Silence/Ultimate Race			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/Gundam Seed Destiny	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinemax				Terror On Track 9			The Nugget (5:40 PM)				7 Seconds (7:25 PM)			Life Without Dick			The Sleeping Dictionary		
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	World News				Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break		Prison Break		E-Ring					
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery/ Hannah Montana	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean/ Hannah Montana	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	Totally Spies/ Hannah Montana	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Weetabix Women's British Open Highlights		Major League Baseball Thursday						LPGA Golf John Q Hammons Hotel Classic 1st Rd				Major League Baseball Friday					
ETC		Everwood 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C.3		Beauty And The Geek 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantasikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel	Hard Ground				Defending Our Kids: The Julie Posey Story				Night Of The Wolf				Empire					Merlin	
HBO			13 Going On 30			Problem Child 2 (5:15 PM)				The Terminal (6:50 PM)				Monster-In-Law			Entourage 13: Neighbors	Entourage 14: Chinatown	Eye For An Eye
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator/ G3		Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter OVA			Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	Getz Mo Getz Ko		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Aims		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The DL	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra, Jackie Collins Presents: Hitched in Hollywood	
MTV Philippines										Laguna Beach	8th & Ocean								
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Milestones: Surviving Everest		Megastructures: Sat Launch		Megastructures: USS Ronald Reagan		Predators at War: The Survivors		Milestones: Journey of Man				ShowReal Asia: Hiss of Death		ShowReal Asia: The Kung Fu Dragons of Wudang		No Borders: Ou Dede and His Daughters	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Bakbakan Sa Tagaytay		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice-Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nangi-Ale Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nangi-Ale Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle/ Romeo!	Romeo!/ Naturally Sadie	All That	The Brothers García/ All Grown Up	The Fairly Odd Parents As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Julian Makabayan				Ikaw Lamang Ang Buhay Ko				Kulimlim				Juan N Ted - Wanted				Hayop Sa Sex Appeal
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Aytil Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Ride, Eat, Travel	Man & Machine		Isumbong Mo! (Tulfo Brothers)		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21								Barangay Uniting thru Cross		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			GWS 35-2006	World Pool Trick Shots 06				WNCAA		Hall of Fame Induction '06				Superfights: Gatti vs Mayweather				ATP Mercedes Cup Finals	
Sports Plus		U.S. Open '06 Women's SFinal						Bicycle Casino's Legends of Poker				U.S. Open '06 Men's Dbls Final				Deutsche Bank C'ship Highlights		U.S. Open '06 Day 13 Men's SFinal	
Star Movies	Hide And Seek			The Librarian: Quest For The Spear (4:15 PM)				Undercover Brother			The Triangle - Ep 01			The Triangle - Ep 01			The Triangle - Ep 01		
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Philly		Life As We Know It		Life As We Know It		TNA Xplosion							
Studio 23								Sports TV	The Contender	7th Heaven (7:15 PM)		The Bachelorette		Barkada Nights					Real Deal

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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▨ **Espinas comes to** fore as PCU clinches bonus over Letran /A23

▨ **'Federer Express'** chugs past Blake /A24

Django, 3 other Pinoys advance

Streaking Bustamante nails 18th win in row; RP bets assured of ₱1.8M each

FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE SWEPT his assignments Thursday (Friday in Manila) and extended his unbeaten streak in the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball Championship.

Flaunting the form that made him the game's top-ranked player in 2001, Bustamante won all his five matches to lead three other Filipinos into Round 5 of the $3-million event at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

Legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes, former World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan and Philippine money-game king Dennis Orcollo also advanced, assuring themselves of at least $36,000 (P1.8 million) each like Bustamante.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, who hails from Tarlac, Tarlac, topped Group 78 and stretched his victory run to 18 in the world's richest billiards tournament that has lured 200 aces from all over the world.

Bustamante's Round 4 victims were compatriot Antonio Lining (8-3), Danny Harriman (8-6) of the US, Tony Drago (8-1) of Malta, Marko Lohtander (8-1) of Finland and ex-world pool champion Oliver Ortmann (8-7) of Germany.

The 52-year-old Reyes posted a 4-1 record to rule Group 75, while Orcollo and Pagulayan qualified with 3-2 marks in Group 73 and Group 77, respectively.

Three other Filipinos—Antonio Lining (2-3), Jose "Amang" Parica (1-4) and Ronato Alcano (1-4)—failed to advance and settled for $25,000 each.

ON A ROLL: Francisco Bustamante pulls off another sweep.

Reyes, who banners the Puyat Sports stable with Bustamante, beat Americans Charles Bryant (8-2), Jason Millier (8-6) and Rodney Morris (8-3) and Romanian Ben Davies (8-3). His only loss came at the hands of American Charlie Williams (6-8).

Morris also finished with a 4-1 record, but Reyes was adjudged the group topnotcher with a higher winning game performance of 63.94 percent as against the American's 57.08 percent.

The Quezon City-based Orcollo caught the last bus in his group after beating Yannick Beaufils (8-6) of France in his last match.

The 27-year-old Orcollo also bested Parica (8-6) and Michael Schmidt (8-6) of Germany. He yielded to Karl Boyes (1-8) of Britain and Thomas Engert (3-8) of Germany.

Pagulayan, on the other hand, beat Americans Corey Deuel (8-5) and Larry Nevel and Alcano (8-4), but bowed to Fabio Petroni (5-8) of Italy and another former World Pool titlist Mika Immonen (7-8) of Finland.

Immonen was declared the topnotcher in Group 77 with a 4-1-slate while second and third places went to Deuel (60.2 percent) and Pagulayan (56.22), who bested Petroni (54.42) in the tiebreak.

Sharing the limelight with Bustamante were Boyes and Briton Mick Hill, who were likewise unbeaten after 18 matches.

The tale of woe belonged to Lining, who yielded his final round match against Marko Lohtander of Finland (3-8).

Advancing with Bustamante in Group 78 was Ortmann, whose only loss came at the hands of Bustamante, and Harriman who took the last seat via the tiebreaker at the expense of Lining and Lohtande. The triumvirate wound up tied at 2-3.

Bunched with Bustamante in Group 79 in the fifth round are Boyes, Hsia Hu-kai of Chinese-Taipei, Deuel and Rodney Morris of the US and David Alcaide of Spain.

Orcollo is grouped with Ralf Souquet of Germany, Immonen, Williams and Harriman of the US and Neils Feijen of Holland in Group 80.

Bracketed in Group 81 are Reyes and Pagulayan, Mark Hill of Britain, Dimitri Jungo of Switzerland, Engert and Ortmann.

The top two from each group will advance to Round 6, where play shifts to Round Robin. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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Army booters go for Adidas futsal crown vs Air Force

ARMY SETS OUT AS FAVORITE TO PUT away the men's First Division crown when it takes on arch rival Air Force in Game 1 of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship finals at the Blue Eagle Gym in Katipunan, Quezon City.

Sporting a 12-1-0 win-draw-loss record, the closely-knit Armymen needs only to win the first game of the best-of-three series against the Airmen to win the championship outright by virtue of its perfect slate.

The two sides, which boasts of players from football hotbeds in the South, will clash at 7 p.m., following the matches pitting Superfriends against Navy at 4 p.m., and Veterans Football Club versus Pasargad at 5 p.m.

Owing to its superior record, Superfriends has virtually secured third place in the men's First Division of the tournament sponsored by Adidas and co-presented by Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers Chocolate Bar Blue Angel Alcohol, Powerade and Viva Mineral Water in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

The Airmen, with the crafty Emelio Caligdong of Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo, at the helm, are out to stop the Armymen from winning the title at the first go and send it to a Game 2 next Saturday.

Both teams are fresh off victories, with Army disposing of Kaya Football Club, 7-3, and Air Force defeating Superfriends, 8-4.

If the Armymen prevails in today's match, the awarding ceremony will immediately follow.

Also set to receive their awards are women's champion Irok Football Club and men's Second Division titlist University of Asia & the Pacific.

But in case Air Force wins, Game 2 will be played at 7 p.m. next Saturday.

Els grabs lead as Juvic blows chance with 76

WORLD No. 7 Ernie Els hits out of the rough on the 18th en route to a course-record round and the 36-hole lead. AP

SINGAPORE—ERNIE ELS PRODUCED A CLASSY six-under-par 65 for a new course record as he charged into a two-shot lead halfway through the $3 million Barclays Singapore Open on Friday.

The South African star tamed the notoriously difficult Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong course with an eagle, five birdies and a bogey for a two-day total of six-under-par 136.

Overnight co-leader Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines opened up with a double bogey 6 and never recovered to tally a 76 and tumbled to a share of 22nd to 27th places at 143.

Fellow Filipino Gerald Rosales, despite a double bogey 6 on hole 6, overtook Pagunsan with a 72 and an even 142 total.

Miñoza, Que also through

The eminent Frankie Miñoza, firing a second straight 73, and Angelo Que, settling for a 77, also survived the cut (148) at 146 and 147, respectively.

Two other Filipinos, Cookie Lao and qualifier Tony Lascuna, failed to advance with 77s. Lao wound up at 153 and Lascuna at 158.

Els leads by two strokes from Japanese No. 1 Shingo Katayama, who carded a second straight 69 in the Asian Tour's flagship tournament.

Defending champion Adam Scott of Australia, ranked sixth in the world, carded a 69 and poised to strike again at the weekend.

However, three-time Major winner Els will be the man to beat after his outstanding second round performance.

"I have got to be happy with that," said Els. "I hit the ball solidly this morning. The greens are very nice. I hit a nice long one on the 14th, the par three (his fifth hole of the day) and that kind of broke the ice because I did not make a putt yesterday."

After rattling in the 40-foot birdie on the 14th, Els got to three-under for his round with further birdies from 15 feet at the 18th and second hole before a three-putt bogey on the third.

But the "Big Easy" kept up his title charge in sensational style, chipping in for eagle at the par five fourth hole before rounding up his day with birdies on the fifth and the ninth.

"My putting was the main difference today. I made some more putts. I hit some putts yesterday after the round and kind of found a little secret and went with that today. I can't tell you that (secret)." said Els, the world number seven.

Making his debut in the Barclays Singapore Open, Els conceded it has taken him some time to figure out a game plan to tackle the challenging par-71 Serapong course. He now feels confident of dethroning Scott.

"It has taken me a while now to find my bearings. Today will give me some confidence and it was only my third time playing the course. We are finding a way to score now," he said.

Scott could have ended the day closer to Els if not for a bogey at his last hole on the ninth after driving into water. "I felt like I played a bit better than what I shot today. I had a few putts that went by the edge and unfortunately I drove it into the water on the ninth. But you know, I'm pretty happy. I think I need to pick up the pace over the weekend and give Ernie a run.

Scott not surprised

"I'm definitely striking the ball well enough. I just need to get my share of putts over the weekend. I watched Ernie picking putts out of the hole all day and I'm not surprised at all. That's a great round of golf and I'm sure he's feeling good about himself going into the weekend," said Scott.

The talented Aussie, who has posted two top-10s in the Majors recently, knows he needs to put in a low round to win a first title of the year. After turning in even par with a bogey against a birdie, Scott reeled in three birdies on the first, fourth and sixth before his late error when he found the watery grave on his last hole.

"I need one round where I don't make any bogeys and have five birdies or something like that at the weekend or on Sunday. I'm going to need some golf over the weekend," said Scott.

It's Pichay vs Defensor in chess stand-off?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

YESTERDAY, I called a young colleague from a popular broadsheet who plays chess to inquire about his favorite game.

I wanted to know if he agreed with the observation of grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Mark Paragua that the Swiss System, currently being used in the qualifying tournament for the Philippine chess team to the Doha Asiad, is flawed.

The three GMs had given this reason behind their refusal to participate in the ongoing tourney. They said they were willing to go through an elimination, but not through this system which they claimed was defective and demeaning.

* * *

My colleague said that was a lot of crap.

"To start with, the Swiss System is not flawed. *Mahirap malusutan* because of the many pitfalls, but it is not flawed. *Sila lang ang may sabi noon.* Otherwise, why is it being used in the Chess Olympiad?

"The GMs are just using that as an excuse. No matter what the system, I don't think they will participate in an elimination tourney. They want to be seeded," he explained.

It's the same old story, the same old conflict year in and year out, this matter of seeding, he said.

Eugene still wields a most powerful influence, according to the scribe. "He almost always wins his case if he sets his heart to it. After all, nobody wants to destroy a legend."

No, the Swiss System is not flawed, it's just that Eugene doesn't like it.

I wondered if NCFP president Butch Pichay, a member of Congress, would buckle under the pressure and give in to the grandmasters, in the same manner those before him had.

* * *

It turns out that the representative from Surigao, to my pleasant surprise, is not just another politician.

He was holding his ground, he was not giving in. He was pushing through with his program.

"We have been performing dismally in past international tournaments. Maybe it's time the aging warriors gave way to new and younger blood. We're not against pampering our players, but they should be able to deliver," said the congressman, as he announced that he would be sending promising chessers to tournaments in Europe and Australia for them to gain experience.

* * *

Later in the day, I got a call from another colleague, a veteran scribe whose heart is also close to chess.

He said he's not sure if Pichay has heard about it or has given his blessing to the move, but he got a report from an NCFP insider that eight of the 15 federation board members met with Torre, Antonio and Mark's father Ric Paragua at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City last Thursday to make a proposal.

The group offered to hold another qualifier, an eight-man round-robin tournament, "to decide the true representatives of the RP team to the Asian Games."

In a surprising turn of events, the grandmasters turned down the offer and instead pledged their support to the national team that would be formed. This time, they didn't want the house divided.

My veteran colleague is now wondering if there is a sinister motive to the meeting. He speculates that the eight-man group—which forms the majority—might have also offered to support the stand of the grandmasters, even if they have to overturn the decision of the president.

"They may be allies in politics, both belonging to the same political party and both pushing for a charter change, but in the NCFP, congressmen Pichay and Matt Defensor appear to be on opposing quarters," the scribe said.

It was Defensor who led the group of eight, he reported.

"There were two defectors from Pichay's camp, he said. One is a dentist, the other an NSA head.

By today, we ought to know the composition of the Philippine chess team. The qualifying tournament was supposed to end yesterday afternoon.

Archer Paz using own money in WC

AMAYA Paz: Hall of Fame dream

AFTER MISSING THE FIRST THREE legs of the World Cup, Amaya Paz, the country's top lady compound archer, is making sure she'll be able to compete in the fourth leg set in Shanghai, China, from Sept. 26-30.

With or without government assistance.

Paz wants to join the event so badly that she'll be using the P130,000 cash incentive she received for winning the gold medal in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last December to finance her campaign.

The 20-year-old Paz's driving force in joining the event is the chance to be lined up among the members of the Fita Hall of Fame.

"It's really my dream to become a member of the Fita Hall of Fame because if I make it, my picture will be posted inside the Fita office in Switzerland," said Paz during yesterday's SCOOP forum at the Kamayan restaurant along Padre Faura, Malate.

Paz said she has to score 1400 points to achieve her dream.

Three other Filipinos—Earl Yap, Kit Cojuangco and Karl Achacoso—have been invited to the World Cup.

Due to financial constraints, Paz missed the first three legs of the World Cup held in Turkey, Croatia and El Salvador.

Dableo, Laylo, Docena to Asiad

PDI PHOTOS' ROGER MARGALLO

DOCENA

LAYLO

DABLEO

Final standings:

MEN: 9.0 points—D. Laylo;
8.5—R. Dableo, O. Dimakiling, R. Nolte, Y. Ranola, A. Branzuela;
8.0—J. Gomez, N. Mariano, A. Milagrosa, R. Legaspi, C. Castellano 8.
WOMEN: 7.0—J. Docena, B. Mendoza, K. Cunanan.

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS Darwin Laylo and Ronald Dableo get another crack at glory while Jedara Docena gets her baptism of fire in the Doha Asian Games in December.

The three earned the right to carry the country's colors after topping the 11-round Swiss System qualifying tournament that ended yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia.

Laylo, a two-time Chess Olympiad campaigner, bested NM Roland Joseph Perez in the 10th round and then drew with NM Rolando Nolte in the final round to rule the event.

The 26-year-old Laylo finished with nine points, half a point ahead of Dableo, the 2003 Azian Zonal 3.2a champion, and four others.

Dableo, 27, earned the second berth to the Asiad by virtue of a higher tiebreak score over IM Oliver Dimakiling, Nolte, IM Yves Ranola and Ali Brazuela.

Dableo clinched the second berth with a smashing victory over fellow IM Richard Bitoon coupled with Dimakiling's 34-move loss to Ranola.

Dableo eased Ranola out in the second tiebreak system used, 56.60 against 55.75.

The 14-year-old Docena made it to Doha by stunning former national women's champion Cristine Rose Mariano in the final round.

A Boholana, Docena finished in a two-way tie for first place with WIM Beverly Mendoza, who beat WNM Enerose Magno.

But Docena edged Mendoza in the tiebreak. *Roy Luarca*

Metro Bacolod golfers prevail

MEMBERS of the overall champion Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod I, with RGFFP president Poch Borromeo, Rotary Club of Bacolod Marapara president Robert Harland, Rotary Club of Bacolod North's Willy Villar and Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod's Lorenzo "Nonong" dela Cruz during the awards night held at Casino Filipino Hotel.

METRO BACOLOD 1, MADE UP OF RAMON Vicete, Allan Magallanes, Jude Doctora and Boy Manaloto, pooled 175 points to bag the overall title in the southern leg of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament held recently at the Negros Occidental and Bacolod Golf and Country Club.

Rotary Club of Bacolod's Jun B. Bantug fired 103 points to take low gross honors while Rene Silos of RC Bacolod South emerged highest pointer with 96.

Jae Yang posted 107 points to rule the guest division of the tourney sponsored by Toyota Motors Phils., Toyota Cubao, Toyota Manila Bay, Aboitiz 2GO, Pagcor, Petron Corp. and PCSO and backed by Asia Brewery, Taylor Made, GNC, Osim Phils., Sta. Lucia Realty, Rudy Project, Orchard Golf and Country Club, United Laboratories, Enriquez Security Services, Integrated Pipe Specialist and Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club.

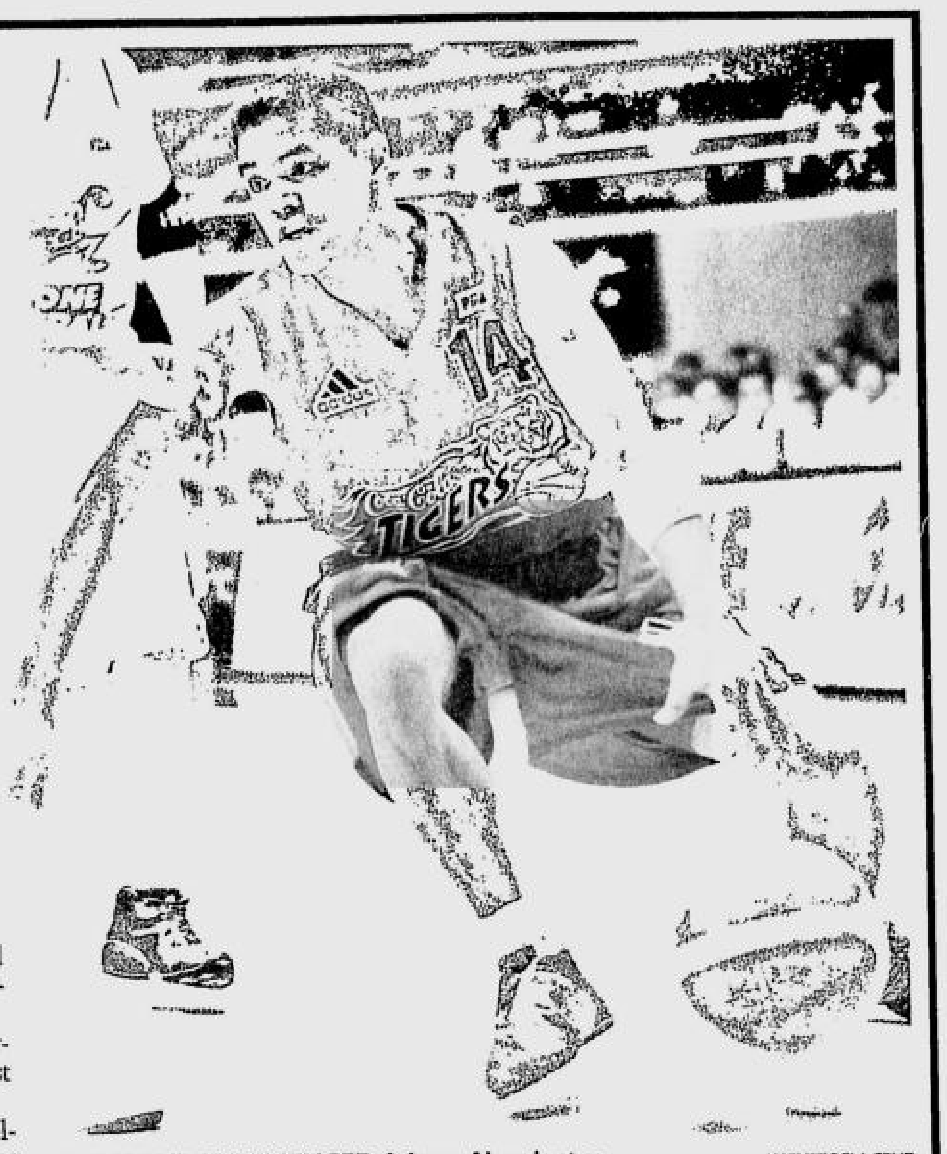
The two-day tourney was graced by RGFFP president Jose Vito Borromeo.

Bacolod Marapara 2's Rico Cajili, Jun-B Bantug, Tonet Ramos and Al Picardal topped the Founder's Division with 166, six ahead of Rotary Club of Lipa's Mark Mendoza, Ed Lipat, Raul Montealto and Emilio Alviar.

Rotary Club of Tacloban 1's Roger Lo, Vic Esperas, Mario Figueroa and Walter Diu won the Governor's Division with 172, followed by Bacolod North 4 (Boy Anglo, Johnny Uy, Ramon Uy and Jojo Quilop) with 159.

Other winners were Metro Bacolod 4's Nonong dela Cruz, Joe Cordova, Jake Dumapi and Larry Kilayco in the President's division with 130 and RC San Juanico's William Dy, Stefan Ruiz, Ed de Jesus and Willy Andrade in the Fellowship division with 110.

Johnny A, 34, could be Ginebra's missing link



SMART AND EXPERIENCED: **Johnny Abarrientos** AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By June Navarro

JOHNNY ABARRIENTOS APPEARS CLOSE TO FINDING A NEW HOME FIT for a king.

Barangay Ginebra has expressed interest in acquiring Abarrientos to provide teeth to an injury-riddled backcourt and a menacing frontline in dire need of a reliable orchestrator.

Coach Jong Uichico was non-committal but showed enthusiasm on the prospect of getting Abarrientos for the forthcoming Philippine Basketball Association season after the 1996 MVP worked out with the Kings the other day.

"Johnny's smartness and experience could give us stability in the backcourt," said Uichico, who invited the former FEU King Tamaraw to come over and practice with the Kings.

"Though nothing's final yet, we're considering taking him in."

It won't be difficult for Uichico to add the 14-year veteran to the team's lineup, considering that his starting point guard Jayjay Helterbrand and backup Egay Echavez are on the injury list.

Helterbrand has again hurt his right hip flexor muscle when the Kings played the Purefoods Giants in a recent pre-season game. It was the same injury that had sidelined the shifty Helterbrand during the playoffs of the Philippine Cup last conference.

However, Uichico is confident that Helterbrand and Echavez, who banged knees with another player from the SK Knights during the Brunei Cup two weeks ago, could suit up in time for the opening of the PBA's 32nd season on Oct. 1.

"We're also concerned about the condition and health of Abarrientos, that's why we wanted to see him play," said Uichico. "But if you ask me, I guess he's a stable backup for Jayjay."

Sources said the 34-year-old Abarrientos, whose contract with the Coca-Cola Tigers will expire at the end of the month, is also a hot prospect for the Sta. Lucia Realtors and the Alaska Aces.

The Realtors need a steady and consistent playmaker after Alex Cabagnot abandoned them, while the Aces wanted to bring Abarrientos back into their fold in recognition of the 10 championships Alaska had won with him.

"Who doesn't want to learn from a Johnny Abarrientos? Our guards could learn a lot from him," said Uichico.

With a surplus of intimidating players at the frontline and an awe-inspiring backcourt, the addition of Abarrientos could really make the Kings look unbeatable both on paper and on the court.

Erik Menk, Rudy Hatfield, Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril, Andy Seigle, Rommel Adducul and Mike Holper form the Kings' solid frontline, while Mark Caguioa, Sunday Salvacion, Mark Macapagal and Helterbrand are expected to take care of the backcourt.

"They say that dividing the playing time of these players could pose a problem," said Uichico. "But it's one problem that I like because other teams are dying to get a big man and I have plenty of them."

Gin Kings too much for jittery Welcoat

REVITALIZED GINEBRA MANGLED AN INEXperienced Welcoat squad, pro league's newest team, 99-73, yesterday as the Kings bared newfound balance in time for the next PBA season.

Billy Mamaril topsocred with 20 points while Mark Caguioa added 17 as the Kings, shooting 61 percent in the first half, erected a 57-37 halftime lead before claming their second straight win in the PBA pre-season tournament at the Lyceum of the Philippines gym.

Eric Menk, Rudy Hatifield, Rommel Adducul and Mamaril were pitted against a younger and shorter Welcoat crew.

"It was a mismatch right from the start, *ang lalaki ng kalaban*," said Welcoat head coach Leo Austria, who delegated bench chores to deputies Carlos Garcia and Alex Compton.

"I really don't think the score means anything. Against Purefoods, we played against a team that was still out of shape. With Welcoat, we played against a practically young team," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico explained.

Uichico said Ginebra's true strength would be gauged when they play the likes of Alaska and the Air 21 Express.

The Kings meet the Aces at 4 this afternoon at the Assumption College gym in Pampanga. They battle the Express next Saturday at the close of the single elimination which will be held at the Tarlac State University.

The Express are also unbeaten in two games and are tied with the Kings on top of the leaderboard.

The scores:

GINEBRA 99—Mamaril 20, Caguioa 17, Macapagal 12, Salvacion 11, Holper 8, Chia 8. Hatfield 7, Oreta 4, Llanete 4, Dulay. 2, Menk 2.

WELCOAT 73—Reyes 14, Tangkay 12, Wainwright 9, Mente 8, Gelig 7, Ibanes 6, Sagad 4, Magpayo 3, Legaspi 3, Baguion 3, Cabatu 2, Santos 0, Lopez 0, Sta. Maria 0, Castro 0.

Quarters: 27-12; 57-37; 75-55; 99-73

Espinas comes to fore as PCU clinches bonus over Letran

PCU'S Ian Vincent Garrido (back) and a Letran cager dispute possession. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

BIG MAN GABBY ESPINAS CAME through with big plays down the stretch as the Philippine Christian U Dolphins clinched the No. 2 spot and the other twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four with a nail-biting 67-62 playoff win over defending champion Letran last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

PCU saw its 20-point lead trimmed down to just one, 63-62, following a three-pointer by Mark Balneg with 35.8 seconds left, but the 6-foot-4 Espinas delivered the baskets that mattered most.

After Balneg's triple, the former Most Valuable Player-Rookie of the Year scored inside the shaded lane.

Then after a missed trey by Aaron Aban, Espinas delivered two clutch free throws off a foul by Hafer Mondragon with 5.4 seconds to play that sealed the win for the Dolphins.

"*Siguro isang* push *na lang, mararating na naming 'yung* goal *namin*, which is the Finals," said PCU mentor Joel Dualan. "*Hindi biro talunin ang* Letran, we know how strong this team is and I'm happy my players delivered."

Daryl Santos canned two free throws that gave PCU its biggest lead at 52-32 with 40 seconds left in the third frame. The Dolphins were ahead by 18 entering the final frame (52-34).

Then Letran used a 14-0 blast to move within 48-52, before Jason Castro made two foul shots to end the run.

The two teams will face off anew in the crossover semifinals set on Wednesday at the same venue with the second-seeded PCU armed with the twice-to-beat advantage against Letran.

Top seeded San Beda meets the fourth-seeded Mapua in the other semifinal pairing.

The scores:

PCU 67—Espinas 19, Castro 16, Garrido 13, Santos 10, Amparado 3, Belga 2, Chien 2, David 2, Navarro 0.

LETRAN 62—Balneg 15, Aban 14, Bautista 11, Mondragon 8, Daa 8, Jazul 4, Realista 1, Faundo 1, Quinday 0, Melegrito 0, Guavarra 0.

Quarters: 12-13; 33-22; 52-34; 67-62

400 cyclists pedal off in Malolos CSI4

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS, THE VETERans and upcoming riders clash for bragging rights, cash prizes and race points when the 4th edition of the Cycling Search Invitational (CSI4) criterium race gets underway today in Malolos, Bulacan.

After a short 1.8 km, mostly flat but circular journey in the initial leg held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle three weeks ago, the 400-plus cyclists get to experience a different kind of ride in the Malolos leg also known as the 1st Governor Josie de la Cruz Cycling Cup: "Taas Noo, Bulakeño."

De la Cruz was also invited to open the race, along with provincial and town officials.

The 2.4-kilometer criterium journey, set to coincide with the town's Singkaban festival, wheels off from the town's sports complex, negotiates through a triangular route passing through a busy portion of MacArthur Highway, and winds through a short but bumpy ride through San Pablo town and back to the complex.

Although not as rough as the Vigan leg held last season, the route provides a testy challenge to the riders, especially in the pro-open category where the big guns are expected to slug it out from start to finish.

This is also the stage where defending overall champion and his star-studded Philipine Army team vowed to launch a comeback after falling short in the initial leg of the ten-stage event of the event presented by philpost and sponsored by PCSO, Lamoiyan Corp., Landbank, Smart, Speed Detergent, Pagcor, and Burlington, with media partners DZSR Sports radio, NU 107 FM, Yes 101.1 FM, Siklista Magazine, The DAily Tribune, Malaya, The mAnila Times, Manila Standard Today, Business Mirror, Mirror Magazine, Graphics and the Philippine DAily Inquirer.

Underbone King race series slated

UNDERBONE ROAD RACERS WILL HAVE A chance to shine in the three-leg 2006 Philippine Underbone King Championship Series which kicks off Sept. 17 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The competition, sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa), is open to all riders with Philippine homologated 4-stroke underbone motorcycles locally available under homologation rules.

Participants may either join the 150cc Open class with a maximum displacement of 150cc and the 110cc Underbone Superstock using 110 underbone models available in the Philippines.

These riders must secure Namssa competition licenses to race as they will battle each other in a massed-start road race format in this series sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Denso and Norkis.

For inquiries, call Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241 or 729-5365.

Blue Eagles, Warriors seek 'springboard' victory today

STANDINGS	W	L
x Ateneo	10	1
x Univ of East	7	4
x Santo Tomas	6	6
x Adamson	6	6
Far Eastern	5	7
Univ of Phils	4	8
National	3	9

x—clinched Final 4 berth

GAMES TODAY

(*Philsports Arena*)

10 a.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UST vs FEU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE

GAME RESULTS WILL HARDLY MATTER, but securing a victory has remained a priority for the UAAP frontrunners.

League leader Ateneo Blue Eagles and the University of the East Warriors—already armed with the twice-to-beat incentives in the Final Four—will battle for more than just pride at 4 p.m. today, the final day of the elimination round at the PhilSports Arena.

"We're looking to win, we want to have momentum going into the semifinals," said Ateneo mentor Norman Black.

Coach Dindo Pumaren is similarly preparing the second-seeded Warriors for the Final Four.

"Even if it's a no-bearing game, we want to use it as a springboard going to the semifinals," said Pumaren. "We're coming off two straight losses, so we want to regain our confidence."

The Eagles will be vying for the best elimination-round record since La Salle had wrapped up the 2002 season with a 13-1 slate.

Black commended his wards for sustaining their aggressiveness despite having secured the semifinal bonus almost three weeks ago.

"Even in a situation where we didn't have to win the game, we came out with a victory," said Black after the Eagles ousted defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws from semifinal contention with a 70-68 triumph last Thursday. "It showed a lot of character in the Ateneo team."

The Eagles and the Warriors are just waiting for the final seedings between Santo Tomas Tigers and Adamson Falcons, who will dispute third spot in a knockout match on Thursday.

The Eagles will battle the fourth-ranked team, while the Warriors will face the third-seeded squad in the Final Four pairings. *Jasmine W. Payo*

SPORTSWATCH

Boystown paces Milo Little Olympics

BOYSTOWN OF THE SISTERS OF MARY SCHOOL RELIED ON THE golden harvest of its runners recently to pace the high school team competition with 13 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze medals after the first week of the 2006 Milo Little Olympics-NCR at the Marikina Sports Park. The Cavite-based SOM-Boystown athletes will try to end the 19-year reign of the Sisters of Mary-Girlstown, which compiled an 11-8-2 medal haul, when the CTW-organized games resume today with competitions in volleyball, tennis, table tennis, chess, badminton and gymnastics. Sta. Cruz Academy of Lubao, Pampanga, is in third spot with a 2-1-0 tally. In the elementary division, defending champion San Diego is on top with an 8-7-2 card, just in front of Lourdes School-Mandaluyong (8-3-4), with Dr. Jose Rizal ES (4-5-3) in third place. Over P400,000 worth of educational fund and sports equipment are up for grabs for the top 10 schools in the 19th edition of the Little Olympics.

Bro. Rafael Donato golf set at Wack Wack

FRIENDS, CLASSMATES AND STUDENTS OF BRO. RAFAEL DONATO, FSC, will hold the Brafe Testimonial Dinner and Golf Tournament on Oct. 10 at Wack Wack. The event, billed as the "Golden Years of Brafe," in celebration of Donatos 50 years as a La Salle brother, will also raise funds for the Foundation for Sharing a La Sallian Education (FSLSE). This foundation benefits deserving students to acquire a La Sallian education. For inquiries, call Ting Yupangco at 536-5215 or 17 and 0917-5365125, or email ting_yupangco@yahoo.com.

Pacquiao stagfest up at Makati Coliseum

BOXING HERO MANNY PACQUIAO HOSTS THE SUPER PACMAN 5-STAG Derby today at the Makati Coliseum featuring the country's leading cockers and derby regulars. The 100-fight program is sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace. After winning the NCA International Derby last May and emerging as runner-up in the 2006 PCAP Cocker of the Year race, Pacquiao has become one of the "bigtimers" in the cockfighting circuit. Among today's participants are Patrick Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Sonny Lagon, Wakee Salud, Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and William Co, Gov. Chavit Singson, Danding Cojuangco, Gov. Ito Ynares, Reps. Gerry "Boy" Espina and Iggy Arroyo, Benjie Lim, Rudy Albano, Efren Canlas, Allan Siaco, Nene Aguilar, former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Gen-gen Arayata, Emil Chua, Boy Javier and Pol Estrellado. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Bakbakan Nat'l 9-Stag Derby slated

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GAMEFOWL BREEDERS ANNOUNCED YESterday the official schedule of the 2006 Bakbakan National 9-Stag Derby. The event is expected to draw no less than 1,000 entries, based on about 115,000 cockerels from 1,217 gamefarms wing-banded in last April by NFGB. Bakbakan will officially begin on Oct. 14, when the United Ilocandia Gamefowl Breeders Association stages its 3-cock elimination round. The competition will culminate in a grand derby at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 27, when all the entries with scores of 5.0, 5.5 or 6.0 points after the semifinals collide in a 3-cock championship, with the winner getting P5 million. NFGB executive director Arnel Añonuevo and secretary Fred Katigbak said supporting the event are Thunderbird Power Feeds, Univet, Purina, Power Bullets, Supremo, Excellence, Lakpue Drug, Sabungero.com, Pilipinas Sabong Sport and Hataw-Pinoy.

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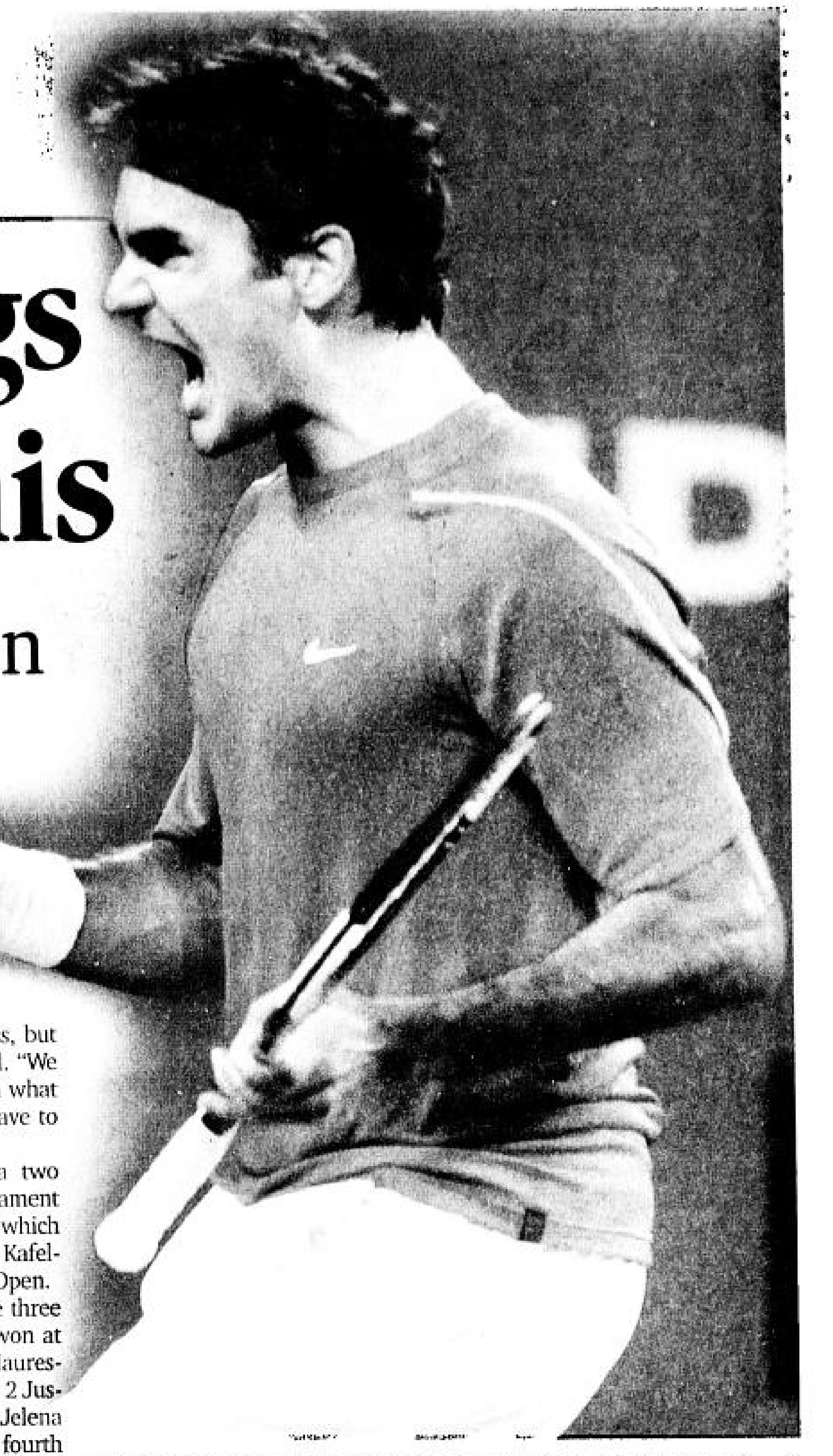
SPORTS

'Federer Express' chugs past Blake, makes semis

Russian up next for world No. 1 in US Open



ROGER Federer, as James Blake says, is sometimes just too good. AP

NEW YORK—TOP-SEEDED ROGER FEDERER DROPPED A SET and had a hard time putting away No. 5 James Blake before finishing a 7-6 (7), 6-0, 6-7 (9), 6-4 victory Thursday at the US Open to reach a record-tying 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal.

"The score says it all. The match could have been easier. Could have been tougher. We both missed our opportunities here and there, but that's kind of expected, because we took our chances on our shots," Federer said. "It turned out to be a thriller."

Even in the toughest of moments, Federer was so masterful that Blake and the partisan audience in Arthur Ashe Stadium showed their admiration. Some of Federer's winners were met with applause from a capacity crowd of 23,712, other shots made Blake acknowledge aloud how impressed he was.

"There are times you just have to say, 'Too good,' and move on," said the American, who came into the night 0-4 against Federer, having lost all 10 sets they'd played.

"There's just too many things he does well. He doesn't panic. He plays offense unbelievably well. He plays defense better than anyone I've ever played."

But Blake did not go quietly, saving a total of three match points and breaking Federer twice when he served for the match, at 5-3 in the third set and 5-2 in the fourth, celebrating the latter with a little strut.

"I take pride in the way I fought," Blake said. "It's a good feeling to know that I'm close to Roger. I guess he's human."

Right until the very end, Blake kept pushing, holding a break point and staving off two match points in the final game. Blake also saved a match point in the third-set tiebreaker, and certainly had other chances: He wasted three set points in the opening tiebreaker and three break points at 1-0 in the fourth set.

"It took a while today, but look, it's tough," Federer said. "You make mistakes, he plays well, and momentum shifts."

Federer, the two-time defending champion, advanced to a semifinal Saturday against Russian No. 7 Nikolay Davydenko, who dropped the first two sets in a half-empty stadium, then came back to beat No. 14 Tommy Haas of Germany, 4-6, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

The other men's semifinal will be No. 9 Andy Roddick against unseeded Russian Mikhail Youzhny, who upset Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

"I'd probably like to play Andy, I guess, but (we're) not quite there yet," Federer said. "We look like the big favorites, but we've seen what happens to favorites sometimes, so we have to be careful."

Davydenko and Youzhny give Russia two men's semifinalists at a Grand Slam tournament for only the second time in the Open era, which began in 1968. Marat Safin and Yevgeny Kafelnikov lost in the final four at the 2001 US Open.

The women's semifinals Friday feature three women who've been ranked No. 1 and won at least one Grand Slam title. No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo plays No. 3 Maria Sharapova, and No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne plays No. 19 Jelena Jankovic, who never made it beyond the fourth round of a major until this tournament. *AP*

MAURESMO AP

SHARAPOVA AP

Sharapova goes bananas

NEW YORK—ONLY MARIA SHARAPOVA AND her bananas appear to stand in the way of a third Grand Slam final of the year between Amelie Mauresmo and Justine Henin-Hardenne.

The second seeded Belgian Henin-Hardenne looks a sure-fire winner in Friday's semifinals against Serbian surprise packet Jelena Jankovic.

And unless Sharapova, the 19-year-old glamour girl of tennis can up her game against top seed Mauresmo in the other semis, it will be another Franco-Belgian final.

After a dominating start to the tournament, Sharapova looked in trouble at times against former Florida sparring partner Tatiana Golovin in Wednesday's quarterfinal.

She needed to save two set points in the second set and was on the defensive when volatile father Yuri started waving a banana at her just prior to the tie-break.

Sharapova promptly ate one and then sped to a 7-0 clincher that pushed her through to take on Mauresmo.

Asked if the bananas had been a coincidence, Sharapova replied: "Probably. I don't know. It's up for you to decide. Did I see him? Well, if I'm looking at him, I usually see. Not blind as far as I know."

The 2004 Wimbledon champion though will need more than nutrients to oust Mauresmo who at 27 has finally hit a purple patch that this year has already brought her the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles.

A win at Flushing Meadows on Saturday would make her the first woman since Serena Williams in 2002 to win three Grand Slam titles in the same year.

Mauresmo has played the US Open on seven previous occasions and over the last five years she has made the quarterfinals four times and the semis once, but never reached the final.

But it is a different Mauresmo that is currently top of the world rankings, the talented but nerve-wracked youngster replaced by a carefree, self-confident tour professional that inspires awe in her opponents. *AFP*

Wie faces cut anew, trails leader by 12

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, SWITZERLAND—Michelle Wie is facing another missed cut playing with the men.

The 16-year-old American struggled on the par 3s, hooked too many tee shots and scrambled for a 7-over 78 Thursday in the first round of the European Masters.

Her chances look slim of making the halfway cut for only the second time playing in a men's event.

"The par 3s ate me alive today," she said. "I didn't have any feel for the game."

Wie was tied for 146th on the Alpine layout, with only five players shooting a poorer score. It was Wie's 10th tournament playing with men, and only her first playing on the European Tour.

"It sure didn't go the way I wanted it to," Wie added. "I think it was very difficult for me after taking time off, go home, start school and come back and play a tournament.

"It was very difficult for me to do that. But I grinded out there." *AP*

Golden Boy signs up Gabi

BOXER DIOSDADO GABI OF THE PHILIPPINES YESterday signed a multifight promotional deal with Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions after taking renowned trainer Freddie Roach as his manager. Gabi visited the GBP office in Los Angeles, where GBP vice president and matchmaker Eric Gomez sealed the deal with the Filipino fighter, Philboxing.Com reported yesterday. Gabi thus became the third Filipino fighter currently linked with Oscar De la Hoya's promotion, together with Rey 'Boom Boom' Bautista and Z 'The Dream' Gorres. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

5th Avenue five wins

5TH AVENUE TELECOMS MOUNTed a fierce rally in the last three minutes and then kept their fiery form in the overtime period to subdue John O, 89-86, and capture the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball crown Thursday at the Lyceum gym.

Al Vergara, who eventually bagged the MVP award, joined hands with Erick dela Cuesta and Al Magpayo to wipe out an 11-point deficit and shove 5th Avenue ahead, 80-77, with 5.8 seconds left.

But John O's Nino Marquez dropped a 3-point bomb to extend the game.

Vergara was named to the Mythical 5 along with Marquez, Dela Cuesta, Randy Lopez and Bryan Gahol.

The scores:

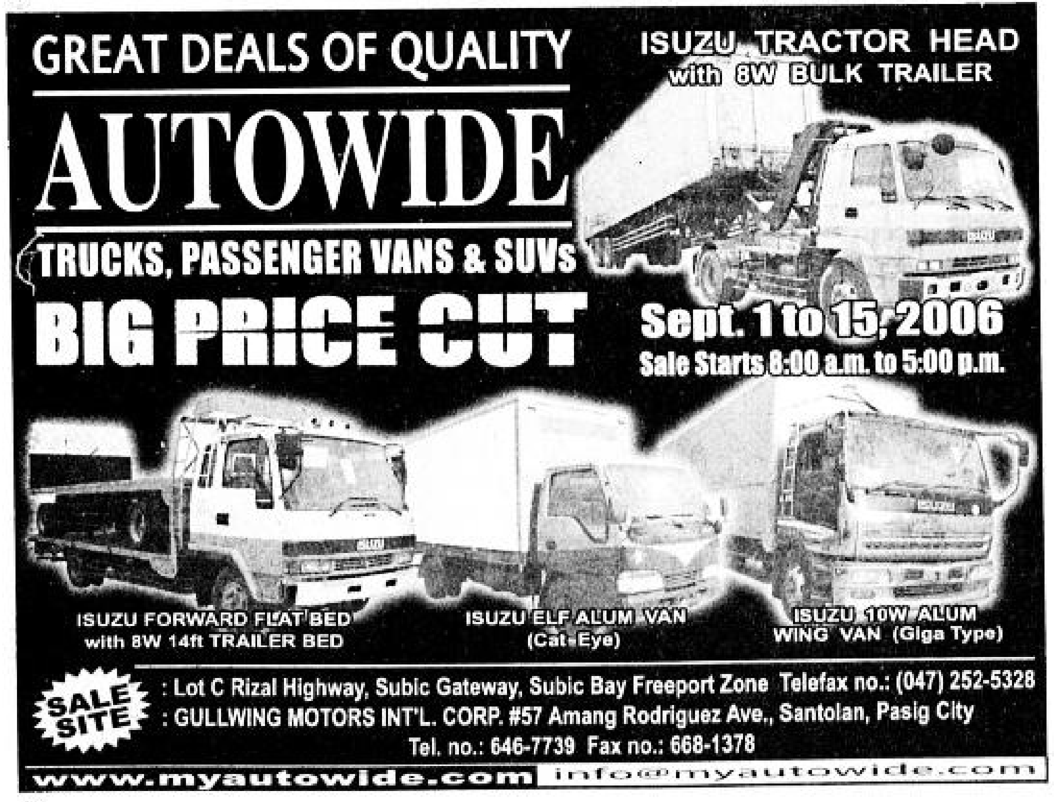
5TH AVENUE 89—Dela Cuesta 22, Vergara 21, Magpayo 11, Yee 8, Espiritu 8, Zagala 7, Buenaventura 5, Alfad 4, Mamaclay 2.

JOHN O 86—Marquez 22, Moody 12, Buenafe 11, De Gula 10, De castro 10, Zablan 8, Legaspi 6, Reguera 5, Sta. Cruz 2.

Quarters: 16-28, 38-50, 57-68, 80-80 (OT); 89-86

Rivera assured of bronze in world bowling tourney

WITH ELIMINATION STARING HIM IN THE FACE, NATIONAL bowler Biboy Rivera gallantly fought back to beat Finland's Petri Mannonen, 3-2, in the quarterfinals and assure himself of a bronze medal in the ongoing world men's championship at the Asiad Bowling Center in Seoul, Korea. After losing 168-225 and 223-233 in the short oil and long oil patterns, respectively, Rivera took the next three games, 202-179 (short oil), 267-242 (long oil) and 191-181 (short oil) to emerge as the lone Asian semifinalist in the event. Rivera, who credited acting PBC president Jaime Dychauco and American coach Stoney Brown for his showing, faces in the semis American Rhino Page, who beat Korean Choi Bok-em, 3-0. The other contenders are Germany's Achim Grabowski and Australia's Jason Belmonte.



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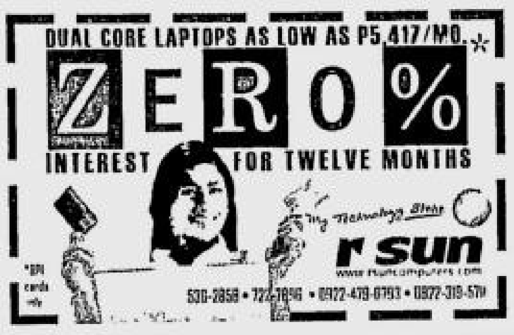
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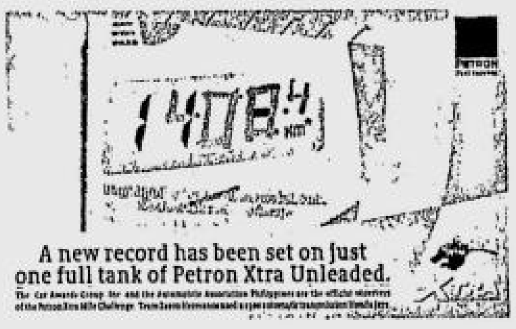
A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

BSP survey shows consumers still pessimistic

Tougher times seen in next 12 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILIPINO CONSUMERS ARE LESS BEARISH IN THE third quarter due to improved prospects for household earnings, new job opportunities and ability to save money, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest quarterly survey.

The BSP's third quarter consumer expectations survey, conducted in the first week of July covering 2,634 households in Metro Manila, showed an improvement in the confidence index (CI)—which remained in nega-

BSP SURVEY/B2

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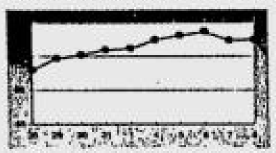

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> **Doña Estela Marfori Posadas of the illustrious and landed Marfori-Posadas family pioneered the development of residential communities in their vast stretch of land in Sucat.**

Today the Marfori-Posadas tradition of pioneering development is shared with real estate maverick Brittany Corporation, as expressed in the development of The Marfori at Posadas-Brittany Bay. The Marfori honors the legacy of Doña Estela Marfori Posadas.

Set to be completed in 10 years, Posadas-Brittany Bay will be the biggest urban development project of Brittany Corporation. With over 60 hectares of prime property that provides an unobstructed, breathtaking view of Laguna de Bay and the Sierra Madre mountains, the project will offer a combination of residential, commercial, business and institutional enclaves. It is envisioned to be bigger in scale than existing major urban centers like Araneta Center (23 ha.), Eastwood City (16 ha. CyberPark), and even double that of Newport City (25 ha.).

At the heart of Posadas-Brittany Bay, The Marfori rises as an exclusive enclave of upscale condominiums standing 10 to about 20-storeys high. The first tower, Viera, quickly sold out and broke ground this year. The second tower is in the pre-selling stage.

> **A 60-hectare masterplanned community, Posadas-Brittany Bay is envisioned as the next metropolitan hub.**

The Marfori will be accessible via 4 major thoroughfares, Sucat, Bicutan, the South Railway Station and C-6.

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'Hot money' inflows surged to $131.5M in Aug., BSP says

Net foreign investments up from $63.9M in '05

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL stocks, bonds and other bank instruments surged to $131.5 million in August, more than double the $63.9 million in net inflows of "hot money" a year ago and reflected the more upbeat investor sentiment.

However, based on the latest portfolio investment report from major custodian banks compiled by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the January-to-August net inflows totalled $1.02 billion, still lower than the $1.99 billion in the same period last year.

The net portfolio inflows for August were 12 percent higher than the previous month's level.

"Factors which helped build investor sentiment during the month included the continued slowdown in the inflation rate to 6.4 percent in July, a number of strong first half/second quarter corporate earnings reports, the double-digit growth in merchandise exports for the fifth consecutive month in June, and the upgrading by Fitch Ratings of the country ceiling for the Philippines from BB to BB+," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said in a press statement.

Country risk is a broader concept that relates to the risk to cross-border foreign currency lending and investment arising from events in a particular country that are outside the control of the private sector. It is different from the sovereign risk, which refers to the risk that the government of a sovereign nation would default on debt obligations.

"However, recurrent concerns that the U.S. Federal Reserve may resume increases in its interest rates, the volatile crude oil prices and the national government's budget deficit of P17 billion in July after three consecutive months of surpluses may have limited the increase in the net inflow," Tetangco said.

The country's tally of portfolio investments, also tagged as "hot money" due to their volatile nature, reached $325.6 million in August, of which 65 percent went to buy shares listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. Investments in government securities, mainly Fixed Rate Treasury Notes or FXTNs, and peso bank deposits accounted for the remainder.

"These investments exceeded capital repatriations or outflows of $193.8 million, which arose mainly from divestments from listed shares ($113.5 million) and from government securities ($36.6 million)," Tetangco said.

During the first eight months of the year, registered foreign portfolio investments and capital repatriations totaled $4.21 billion and $3.18 billion, respectively.

On a gross basis, 67 percent of the investments for the eight-month period went to PSE-listed shares at $2.81 billion.

Investments in peso-denominated government securities, mostly FXTNs, amounted to $1.37 billion, while investments in money market instruments reached $27.9 million and peso bank deposits, $1.1 million.

The portfolio investments were funded with fresh remittances of foreign exchange converted into pesos through banks operating in the Philippines, 81 percent of which originated from Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Foreign investments in PSE-listed shares dropped by 5 percent from the year-ago level due in part to the lower volume of new and additional initial public offerings this year compared to last year and lower investments in telecommunication, holding and mining firms.

Gross inflows from foreign investments in government securities also declined by 1 percent from last year.

Meanwhile, capital repatriations increased by 34 percent from last year.

First Gen wins Pantabangan-Masiway plant

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ FAMILY'S FIRST GENERATION Hydropower Corp. yesterday emerged as the winning bidder for the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plant package auctioned off by Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

With its bid of $129 million, First Gen edged out second highest bidder SN Aboitiz Power Inc., which offered $112 million for the Nueva Ecija-based plant package.

"We are very happy with the offers. Clearly, this is the result of good competition and continued interest in Philippine power assets," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement.

Under the asset purchase agreement for the facility, First Gen is required to deliver at least 40 percent of the purchase price as upfront payment on or before the closing date.

The balance may then be amortized over seven years in 14 equal semi-annual payments, bearing an interest rate of 12 percent a year, compounded semi-annually.

First Gen should also post a performance bond worth $2.58 million, or 2 percent of the purchase price.

This bond will be reduced every year by 2 percent of the aggregate amount of the deferred payments.

First Gen will also have to post a deferred payment security deposit equivalent to at least the next deferred payment in the form of cash, currently dated manager's check or a PSALM-accepted irrevocable standby letter of credit.

Apart from the asset purchase agreement, First Gen will also sign a land lease agreement with PSALM, as well as an operation and maintenance agreement with the National Irrigation Administration for the non-power components of the facility.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio said that following the successful sale of the Pantabangan-Masiway package, the government privatization body could now concentrate on the auction of the 360-MW Magat hydropower plant in Isabela and the 25-year National Transmission Corp.

Both auctions are scheduled this year.

She said PSALM would work to sustain the Pantabangan-Masiway momentum for its next power asset auctions.

Apart from the Pantabangan-Masiway package, PSALM had already successfully sold five small National Power Corp. hydropower assets.

These include the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao for $1.37 million, the 1.6-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon for $1.53 million, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur for $480,000, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon for $410,410, and the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol for $1.42 million.

Filinvest gets SEC nod to sell club shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING FIRM FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp. has received the nod of the Securities and Exchange Commission to push through with plans to sell club shares to investors to raise as much as P958 million for the development of a world-class sports and nature club in Mactan, Cebu.

In documents filed with the SEC, Filinvest said it would offer 2,395 shares of its Seascapes Beach Club at P300,000 to P400,000 each.

FDC said it expected to raise between P854 million and P958 million from its secondary offer of club shares. The funds will be used to partly finance the development of the sports club and its facilities. The total projected capital requirement for the project is roughly P450 million.

The property sits within FDC's proposed 12-hectare Seascapes Resort Town in Cebu. The beach club will be done in two phases, with the first targetted for completion in September 2007 and the second, in May 2008.

Phase 1 will consist of the beach club lobby, pavilions, lounges, ballroom, cafes, sports bar, clinic, lockers, gym, badminton courts, children's area, outdoor party area, pool bar, gazebo, club pool and kiddie pool.

Publicly listed Filinvest is the holding company of taipan Andrew Gotianun.

Shares down on profit-taking

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.13-PERCENT LOWer yesterday, snapping a six-day rally, with further losses on Wall Street overnight prompting investors to take profits, dealers said.

Losses in blue chips, led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), weighed on the main index but sustained interest in SM Investments Corp. and Megaworld Corp. helped limit the downside, they said.

The composite index was down 27.21 points at the day's low of 2,378.04, after touching a high of 2,406.61. The index gained 2.1 percent for the week. Volume was 2.1 billion shares worth P2.08 billion.

The broader all-shares index fell 11.98 points to 1,477.53.

Losers led gains 79 to 18, with 56 stocks unchanged.

"Stocks succumbed to profit-taking, with Wall Street's losses undermining sentiment," said Ron Rodrigo of Unicapital Securities Inc. "At the same time, technical indicators point to the market's overbought condition."

Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities said the pullback was also triggered by a further warning from the stock exchange about price manipulation in the market. *AFP*

Europcar partners with RP firm

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MELBOURNE-BASED CAR RENTAL FIRM Europcar Asia Pacific said yesterday it had partnered with local firm MSIC Transportation Inc. as part of efforts to expand to the region.

Europcar Asia Pacific chief executive Doug Hunt said the license agreement signed with MSIC-owner of the brand Infinity Rent A Car—came barely two years after Europcar Australia's management buy-out from France's Europcar International.

The MBO, which also covered Europcar's Asia Pacific franchise, gave rise to the new independent firm Europcar Asia Pacific.

However, the new firm is sharing the brand with the original Paris-based company, which so far has established presence in at least 143 countries.

For its part, Europcar Asia Pacific has established a presence in at least 30 countries in the region since going independent.

"This partnership with MSIC shows our confidence in the Philippine travel market," Hunt said. "We believe this is a destination that we can promote (in the global market)."

The official added that Europcar chose MSIC, which with a track record of only three years is the youngest player in the local industry, because of its drive and ability to serve clients.

BSP survey shows consumers still pessimistic

From page B1

tive territory—at -37.2 percent from -38.7 in the second-quarter survey.

However, the latest BSP survey showed that consumers were bracing for tougher times looking forward to the fourth quarter and the next 12 months as their indices deteriorated by 3.8 points (to -9.4 percent) and by 10 points (to -6.4 percent), respectively, compared to the confidence indicators in the survey last quarter.

A negative CI indicates that respondents with unfavorable views still outnumber those with a favorable outlook.

Majority of households covered by the BSP's latest survey cited increases in the prices of goods, the political crisis, higher unemployment rate, and ineffective government policies as reasons behind their pessimism.

"While the CI has remained negative (in the third quarter), its increase indicated that the edge of the pessimists over the optimists has been narrowing," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

"Consumers believed that the economy as well as their own family condition based on family financial situation and family income were better in the third quarter compared to the last quarter," he said.

This was the fourth quarterly improvement in the CI versus the downtrend seen until the second quarter of 2005.

But the third quarter was still not deemed as a good time to purchase consumer durables such as vehicles or pieces of property. The survey also indicated that consumers were less inclined to embark on any buying spree in the next 12 months.

Respondents who indicated no interest to buy assets in the next 12 months cited higher priority for food and other basic needs, low/insufficient income, high prices and high cost of fuel and electricity.

On the other hand, the factors seen to encourage consumers to buy assets included the requirement of the family, easy installment terms, form of investment (in the case of housing) and convenience to family and usefulness in business (in case of motor vehicle).

The survey showed that based on income class, pessimism was more subdued as the income level went higher. Households earning P30,000 and up registered a CI of -20.6 percent or better than the -29.9 percent and -44.8 percent posted by households earning P10,000 to P29,999 and less than P10,000, respectively.

The BSP's latest consumer survey also indicated that:

- Average family income is seen to contract by 4.5 percent in the third quarter and further by 0.3 percent in the fourth quarter. Family income, however, is expected to improve next year with income rising by an average of 1.9 percent compared to third quarter this year.
- Family expenditures for basic commodities in the fourth quarter of 2006 are expected to rise by an average of 5.9 percent. The highest increase in expenditures was anticipated in food at 11 percent followed by utilities, transportation, fuel and medical and personal care.
- Unemployment, interest rate and inflation were expected to rise while the peso was seen to depreciate over the next 12 months. In particular, prices of basic goods and services for the next 12 months were seen to increase by an average of 11.1 percent compared to 8.9 percent in the previous quarter's survey due to higher cost of utilities, transportation, food, and fuel.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 8, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	7,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	39.5	38.5	39	14,931,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	55.5	55.5	1,112,100
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	1,480
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	1,630,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77.5	77.5	76.5	76.5	48,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40	40	39	39.5	300,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	3,300
Phil. Savings Bank	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	55,000
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	52.5	51.5	52.5	25,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	5,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.7	587,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	210,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1620	1610	1620	550
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	250,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	230	330	230	230	1,940
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	1,940
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	3,463,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	48.5	49	403,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	995,700
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	88,500
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30.5	30	30.5	1,642,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	8.9	8.9	867,000
Petron Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	7,829,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.1	1.02	1.06	784,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Cadp Group Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	31,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33	518,900
Rfm Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.78	0.84	230,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,716,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	42,400
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	324,500
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	1,300,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	3,500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.7	2,354,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.06	1.66	1.06	1.66	55,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	353,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	25,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.15	3.4	3.15	3.2	85,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.92	0.92	0.8	0.92	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.48	0.56	154,670,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.1	0.105	15,290,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	125,000,000
Ayala Corp.	475	475	460	467.5	171,960
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	400,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5	268,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	9,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.06	1.98	1.98	556,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.25	3,770,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	44,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	330,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	306,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	185,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	8,757,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.4	3.25	3.4	280,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	3.1	2.85	3.1	4,855,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	26,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	940,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2	2	1.2	1.2	29,056,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	27,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,010,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	10,310,000
SM Investments Corp.	226	230	226	230	943,010
South China Resources Inc	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.9	530,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	12,340,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.5	13.5	2,361,100
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	3,787,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,610,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.55	2.46	2.55	1,272,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	81,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.28	9,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.51	22,920,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	1,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.36	1.38	14,219,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	330,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	350,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.36	2.36	50,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,580,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.86	130,670,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	520,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	240,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	136,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,720,000
SM Development Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.84	808,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.8	7.9	1,913,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	570,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.085	0.09	4,800,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.25	16.25	16	16	6,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,808,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1045	1050	1045	1045	36,840
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	7,947,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1995	1995	1980	1980	57,790
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,900,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	6,200,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2	1.92	2	227,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	6,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	16,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	535,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.25	16.25	15.25	15.75	1,584,700
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	15,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	15,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.08	2.08	1.96	2.02	4,370,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	860,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	41,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.06	355,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	415,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	4.8	4.65	4.8	1,356,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	1,099,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.011	0.012	800,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.4	3,676,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	10	10	10	23,000
Benguet Corp. B	28	28	28	28	200
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.22	2.24	2.18	2.24	196,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	22,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.245	5,630,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	139,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	92,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	100,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	5,398,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	9,959,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	85,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	220,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.59	3,170,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	144,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	7,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	1,720,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	430,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.5	10.5	10	10.25	73,600
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	490
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	23,000

CURRENCIES

September 8, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785176	1.000000	50.3650
Japan	Yen	0.006744	0.008580	0.4326
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472048	1.874800	94.4243
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100967	0.128591	6.4765
Switzerland	Franc	0.631830	0.804699	40.5287
Canada	Dollar	0.707239	0.900739	45.3657
Singapore	Dollar	0.500590	0.637552	32.1103
Australia	Dollar	0.596185	0.759301	38.2422
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.082860	2.652731	133.6048
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209639	0.266652	13.4299
Brunei	Dollar	0.499000	0.635526	32.0083
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021005	0.026752	1.3474
UAE	Dirham	0.213787	0.272279	13.7133
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.273600	64.1449
Argentina	Peso	0.253283	0.322581	16.2468
Brazil	Real	0.364520	0.464253	23.3821
Denmark	Kroner	0.134026	0.170695	8.5971
India	Rupee	0.017036	0.021697	1.0928
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215411	0.274348	13.8175
Mexico	New Peso	0.071396	0.090930	4.5797
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505566	0.647710	32.6219
South Africa	Rand	0.106674	0.135860	6.8426
Korea	Won	0.000821	0.001045	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.107045	0.136333	6.8664
Syria	Pound	0.015126	0.019264	0.9702
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023942	0.030492	1.5357

Business leaders urge GMA to re-impose ban on state dole-outs

By Daxim L. Lucas

A THINK TANK COMPOSED OF SOME of the country's leading economists and business leaders has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to scrap an order which revives subsidized loan programs via state-run corporations.

In a statement released yesterday, the Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) said that the Arroyo administration's credit program is bound to fail like its Marcos-era predecessors.

"Government's long experience with ... failed directed credit programs says it all," the group said in a statement.

"The Masagana-99 rice production program introduced in the 1970s was undertaken at great cost to taxpayers (as a large portion of the subsidized loans were never paid back)."

The group also said that the financial system also took a beating as rural banks became dependent on cheap government funds, displacing deposit mobilization efforts.

"An ambitious livelihood program, the Kilusang Kabuhavan at Kaunlaran (KKK) launched in the 1980s, similarly failed," it also said.

Last month, President Arroyo signed Executive Order 558 which effectively lifted the ban on government non-financial agencies (GNFAs) and government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCCs) to implement so-called directed credit programs.

The order effectively lifted a ban that was imposed by President Joseph Estrada in 1999 through Executive Order 138.

Estrada's ban effectively ended the government's money-losing streak with loan dole-outs since the 1970s.

The political opposition has accused the Arroyo administration of lifting the ban on dole-outs as a prelude to its bid to advance its agenda ahead of the 2007 national and local elections.

The University of the Philippines-based FEF is chaired by former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla and includes as members several influential economists and businessmen.

Curiously, the group also has, as its adviser, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) chair Patricia Sto. Tomas, who is said to be a strong advocate of the President's policy.

Sto. Tomas had reportedly been urging DBP officials to enter into retail, and not just wholesale, lending in line with the administration's thrust.

In its statement, the group pointed out that borrowers of subsidized loans "see the funds as government dole-outs that need not be repaid."

"Government nonfinancial agencies do not have the capability to administer loan programs, resulting in poor screening and program administration," it warned.

Japan stops shipments of mangoes from RP company

By Judy Quiros,
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE JAPANESE GOVERNment has suspended trading with a sister company of Dole Philippines after health authorities there discovered that the firm's recent shipments of fresh mangoes contained excessive chemical residue.

Ednar Carlos Dayanghirang, president of the Davao Region Mango Contractors Association (Daremca), said that the food safety agency of Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) has barred the Davao-based Diamond Star Agro Products Inc. (Dsapi) from exporting mangoes to Japan.

Dayanghirang said the suspension was served last month after MHLW tests confirmed that the Davao firm's mangoes contained cypermethrin residue of 0.04 parts per million (ppm).

The maximum residue level (MRL) allowed by the Japanese government for cypermethrin is 0.03 ppm.

Mango growers use cypermethrin against black ants and fruit flies. It is one of the cheapest and most readily available insecticides in the country.

According to Dayanghirang, Dsapi gets its mango supply from Catigan in Toril, Davao City; Malungon in Sarangani Province; Davao del Sur; and from Manikling in Davao Oriental.

He said that last year, the Japanese government also limited Dsapi's mango shipments to Japan after the MHLW detected in the fruits high residue level of chlorpyrifos, another kind of insecticide used in growing mangoes.

But Dayanghirang said the suspension slapped by Japan on Dsapi this year is more serious than last year's.

"It is for an indefinite period of time," he said.

Following the suspension, Dayanghirang said Dsapi postponed the inauguration of its P200-million Vapor Heat Treatment (VHT) plant in Carmen, Davao del Norte.

As this developed, Daremca urged the country's exporters to form partnerships with mango contractors in Southern Mindanao for the production and marketing of mangoes.

Dayanghirang said mango contractors are not financially capable to meet the standards set by foreign markets.

He said Daremca had also asked the government to help minimize the improper use of chemicals on mangoes.

He said the government should adopt an MRL standard for mangoes and other fruits in the Philippines not only to avoid a similar ban from other export markets but also to ensure the health of consumers.

"Other countries don't want their people to eat food with toxic chemicals, but the Philippines do not have a policy on that," he said.

DOF presses case for low wage earners

PIRATE ART
Technology is providing artists some business bonuses. Lito Bibal has been converting seized pirated compact discs and jackets into art trays which he sells for P300 apiece. His brother, artist Roger Bibal is selling these items on the streets of Baguio City. VINCENT CABREZA

Congress urged to pass bill to exempt workers from tax

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE will urge Congress to immediately pass a bill that will exempt minimum wage earners this year from the income tax.

The DOF has aired its concern that its earlier directive for employers not to withhold income taxes from their minimum-wage employees would not serve its real purpose if Congress will not be able to come up with the proposed bill.

The DOF has exempted minimum wage earners from withholding tax, a move aimed at temporarily easing the burden of low-income earners arising from the expansion of the coverage of the value-added tax (VAT). The exemption took effect early in 2006.

But a finance official said that the withholding-tax exemption only meant that the income tax liabilities withheld monthly from minimum wage earners would no longer be withheld. Without a bill exempting them from the income tax, minimum wage earners will have to pay their income tax obligation for 2006 on or before April 15, 2007.

Minimum wage earners are those whose monthly income is P5,000 or below, or whose annual income does not exceed P60,000. Minimum wage earners are also those whose daily pay amounts to P325 or below.

The official said that exemption from tax payments need legislation and could not be done administratively.

The finance official said that currently, a bill has yet to be filed exempting minimum wage earners from income tax for 2006. What is pending in the Lower House and the Senate are bills exempting minimum wage earners from the income tax by 2007 and succeeding years.

The DOF will likely ask both houses of Congress to simply insert a provision in the pending bills that will also exempt minimum wage earners from the income tax this year.

The finance official said the DOF will help push for the proposed bill, in the hope of having it passed before April next year.

According to DOF estimates, the government stands to lose some P500 million in potential revenue collection from the proposed exemption of minimum wage earners for 2006. The official said, however, that the amount was something the government could afford.

The official said President Macapagal-Arroyo gave instructions to the DOF to study the possibility of also granting middle-income earners some form of tax relief, considering that they are burdened more by the VAT than the low-income earning ones are.

The DOF said it would be amenable to the plan of granting middle-income earners some form of tax relief once the government has completely placed its fiscal house in order.

Despite improving fiscal condition, the government still expects to post a P63-billion budget deficit next year, better than the programmed P125 billion this year.

The government expects to hit a zero budget deficit by 2008 and to achieve a budget surplus by 2009.

MIAA rues Naia 3's running losses

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL Airport Authority (MIAA) has been spending an average of P1 million a month on electricity alone since it gained stewardship of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Naia 3) in 2004—a fact not lost on MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi, who is strongly advocating the immediate opening of the mothballed facility.

Cusi yesterday told reporters during a roundtable that the MIAA is all for the operation of the terminal even as the legal issues are still being resolved because this will stem the deterioration of the still-unfinished structure and allow the government, airlines and passengers to make use of the facilities which are being maintained anyway.

The MIAA general manager said that the losses the shuttered terminal had run up would be unquantifiable. The missed revenue from tourism alone and the incremental expenses, he said, already present huge sums of money.

Cusi cited regular cleaning, turning of lights, and running of the computers and other equipment to keep the mechanisms in shape as some of the maintenance activities that generate incremental expenses. Much of the expenses go to electricity.

He could not name the figure for the water bill, but said it is a small amount because it is only used for regular cleaning. He did not quote the bill for security and maintenance personnel as well.

The mothballing of the Naia 3 also prevents the MIAA from maximizing Naia 2, which was designed and built to service domestic flights.

Naia 1, meanwhile, may specialize in servicing chartered and freight aircraft once its international flight operations are transferred to Naia 3.

The writ of possession which MIAA needs in order to oversee the final construction work and opening of Naia 3 now hangs in the Philippine courts.

The Office of the Solicitor General of the republic has asked the Supreme Court to cancel a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals preventing the government from paying Naia 3 builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) P3 billion, after the Supreme Court nullified the consortium's contract to build and operate Naia 3.

In the meantime, the facility remains only 98-percent finished, as reported by Takenaka Corp. of Japan, the contractor the MIAA tapped in June 2005 to complete Naia 3 after it took over the project from Piatco.

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Gov't expects lower non-tax revenue in '07

IN 2007, THE NATIONAL GOVERNment expects to collect P90.6 billion in non-tax revenues, slightly lower than what it hopes to collect for the whole of 2006.

Finance officials explained that the sequestered wealth of the Marcoses, from which the government used to draw its funds, would have been depleted by the end of this year.

The estimated non-tax revenues next year is 3.7 percent lower than the P93.952 billion estimated to be collected this year.

The government used to draw from the sequestered ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses estimated at about P35 billion. The amount drawn every year formed part of the government's annual revenue collection.

But the Department of Finance said that remittances from the Marcos wealth would be good only until the end of this year. According to earlier reports, the government is scheduled to tap P8.5 billion—the last that could be drawn from the sequestered wealth.

The Department of Budget and Management earlier said that of the P35 billion in sequestered Marcos wealth, P27 billion was used to fund the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, and P8 billion was used to indemnify human rights victims during the Marcos regime.

Aside from the the Marcos wealth, other forms of non-tax revenues collected by the government include dividends from government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and government financial institutions (GFIs), which are collected by the Bureau of the Treasury.

The Treasury's income from investments in foreign government securities, such as US Treasury bills, likewise form part of the government's non-tax revenue collection.

The BTr's total income next year is expected to hit P53.5 billion. This will account for 59 percent of the total projected non-tax revenues for 2007, and estimated to be 3.1 percent higher than the Treasury's 2006 program.

The increase in the projected income of the BTr is partly attributed to the expected increase in the dividends collected from GOCCs and GFIs. National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said his office has stepped up efforts to ensure that state-owned firms remit dividends to the national government.

State-owned firms, except those who are losing, are required to remit 50 percent of their earnings to the government.

Despite the expected decline in non-tax revenues, the government expects its entire revenue collection for next year to go up, seeing improvements in the tax and duty collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

The DOF, believing that the existing measures will help buoy up tax collection, has set the government's revenue target for next year at P1.119 trillion—a 14.7-percent jump from this year's expected revenues.

Of the total revenue target, the BIR will account for P784.1 billion, while the Bureau of Customs is expected to turn in P235.1 billion. Other government agencies will account for the rest.

With the expected rise in total revenue collection, the DOF expects the government's budget deficit to be trimmed down to only P63 billion next year from the programmed P125 billion this year.

Michelle V. Remo

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Doctors, firms push for patient compliance

By Charles E. Buban

CARDIOVASCULAR DISeases (CVDs), mainly heart attack and stroke, kill more than 16 million people worldwide (accounting for 30 percent of the total number of deaths each year) while disabling hundreds of millions, more often individuals in the prime of their lives.

For this group of diseases, lifestyle changes are the first line of prevention and treatment, which means keeping a tight rein of the major risk factors that include high blood pressure, tobacco use, eating foods high in saturated fat, elevated blood cholesterol, lack of physical activity, obesity and diabetes.

At the same time, these individuals are also advised to take their medicines religiously or as prescribed.

Sadly, this too, is not followed and doctors are concerned as this would likely lead to more serious if not fatal consequences.

"Patient compliance is crucial to a successful treatment. Even the best treatment plan or the most effective medicine will fail if a patient will not comply," said Dr. Vincent Valencia, a cardiologist and professor of medicine at the Heart Institute in St. Luke's Medical Center.

Critical for all participants

Indeed, improving patients' ability to better manage their own conditions and adhere to prescribed therapy is critical for everyone involved:

- Patients enjoy better health.
- Doctors can more effectively treat patients.
- Pharmaceutical companies' drugs work to their best ability.

Failure to comply could only lead to one outcome: either the disorder is not relieved or cured or it gets much worse.

"And getting sick is costly: One spends for the treatment and medications and loses money for every day spent in sickbed (instead of engaging in income-earning activities). Heart ailments are even more financially straining due to high cost of hospitalization involved," Pfizer medical director Dr. Anthony Leachon said.

According to Pfizer Philippines' survey of 3 hospitals, a patient will spend an average of P90,655.43 for 7.7 days of hospitalization for a person who suffered from a heart attack or P166,754.40 for 11.9 days of hospitalization for someone who has suffered from stroke.

These cost estimates only included hospital stay, laboratory tests and procedures, as well as doctors' and nurses' fees and have not yet taken into account the cost of complications, progression of the disease, premature disability or rehabilitation.

Seemingly counterintuitive

At first glance, it may seem counterintuitive for patients not to take their medicines, but patients are noncompliant or partial compliant for a variety of reasons.

"For one thing, they cannot afford to pay the high prices of many prescription medicines. However, a huge percentage simply forget and are unaware of how many doses they skipped, blaming their busy schedule as well as other distractions," Valencia noted.

Singer and comedienne Nanette Inventor only needs to be reminded by her doctor of the consequences if she fails to take her high blood pressure medicine on time.

"I ask questions. I find out how failure to comply would affect my day-to-day activities. I got scared but that convinced me to follow every advice of my doctor. I believe when patients trust their doctor, they are more likely to adhere to treatment plans and follow advice," Inventor said.

Once-a-day medications

While pharmaceutical companies are now coming up with once-a-day medications to avoid missing any doses, Leachon believes doctors must have time to explain adequately the reasons for a prescribed course of treatment and must instill a sense of urgency.

"Doctors must be able to explain that yes, the cost of a prescribed medicine may be high, but the cost of noncompliance or even partial compliance is much higher as the illnesses could become more complicated or even fatal," he said.

Leachon added that these days, it is also becoming more and more important for the industry to provide support for patients, and help to ensure correct and more effective medicine-taking—and to communicate such support more widely.

Patient care

He said pharmaceutical firms must also play a role helping patients remember their schedule.

"Which is why in the case of Pfizer the patient care program was launched to provide patients with literature, discount cards when buying Pfizer's drug Amlodipine Besylate (Norvasc) for high blood pressure and chest pain and cholesterol-lowering drug Atorvastatine Calcium (Lipitor) as well a 24-hour hotline called Pfizer Healthline (671-1000) to entertain additional inquiries," Leachon explained.

The program is multiapproach: While the literatures are intended to educate enrolled patients of their condition and why regular taking of medicines should not be taken for granted, the discount cards lessens the burden of buying the required drugs. The hotline on the other hand deals with other questions about health care, healthy diet and medications.

Inventor believes that with doctors and patients as well as pharmaceutical firms finding ways to better improve doctor-patient relationship, patients are more likely to adhere to treatment plans and follow advice and in the end prevent an already difficult condition from getting much worse.

When illness gets worse

GETTING SICK IS COSTLY AND ACCORDING TO PFIZER MEDICAL DIRECTOR Dr. Anthony Leachon an individual not only spends for the treatment and medications but also loses money for every day spent in sickbed.

Heart ailments are even more financially straining as what the following Pfizer Philippines' survey of 3 hospitals reveal for those admitted due to heart attack and stroke:

[illegible]

	Hospital A	Hospital B	Hospital C	Average
Length of stay:	10.4	5	7.6	7.7
Total cost of stay:	P84,236.36	P80,856.22	P63,660.97	P76,702.72
Total cost of test/procedures:	P8,503.54	P3,843.07	P11,218.26	P7,854.96
Total professional fees:	P6,485.08	P4,332.97	P7,475.21	P6,097.75
Total expenses:	P99,224.97	P89,032.26	P82,354.44	P90,655.43

[illegible]

	Hospital A	Hospital B	Hospital C	Average
Length of stay:	11.4	13	11.2	11.9
Total cost of stay:	P96,074.47	P221,454.40	P91,661.08	P140,470.79
Total cost of test/procedures:	P8,743.78	P9,615.06	P12,137.49	P10,165.44
Total professional fees:	P13,576.66	P15,640.19	P19,137.62	P16,118.16
Total expenses:	P118,394.92	P246,709.64	P122,936.20	P166,754.40

INFOGRAPHICS LOUIE BACANI

Milagros Dimal Ibe: A pillar of math education

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHERE DID I FIRST MET DR. MILAGROS "Ging" Ibe? A math contest, a teacher seminar, a government consultancy, a media conference, or an organizational brainstorming? But this I know: Ging may be gentle, but when she starts speaking, everyone listens avidly.

Born in Lubao, Pampanga on Nov. 28, 1031, Ging was a consistent honor student. Inspired by an older brother, she wanted to be an engineer. But her family was not well-off, and when her mother fell ill, her only chance for college was to take the offer of Quezon College head Dr. Tomas Barnes to subsidize her studies as long as she majored in Education.

Professor emeritus

Ging graduated in 1953, BS Education, major in Mathematics and minor in Physics, summa cum laude. She also went to Mapua Institute of Technology for math major courses. Equally good in the humanities, in 1954 she received another degree, this time BA English, magna cum laude.

For a year she taught at Quezon College High School out of gratitude, and then moved to other schools, impressing everyone with her command of the subject and her masterful delivery. In 1961, Ging became the first non-University of the Philippines (UP) graduate hired by UP Rural High School (UPRHS), teaching there until 1974.

In the meantime she received two master's degrees, and finally, a doctorate degree in Math Education from the University of Toronto in 1971. In 1975, she transferred to UP Diliman, where she stayed until her retirement in 1996, with the highest rank of all—professor emeritus.

Source of fulfillment

Ging's main source of fulfillment is her students. "Seeing my students enjoying my classes and showing that they are learning, or that I am touching their lives, seeing them going to heights higher than I have attained, and their reminiscing about the times we shared—all these fill me with joy."

In 1987, Ging became one of Metrobank's Outstanding Teachers. She describes her teaching practices. "I elicit and draw out what my students think and know, because I want us to be together in constructing and discussing meanings in my subject, and just about everything. Before a class I feel I'm on a stage play, where I have to give my all to my audience."

Ging reaches out through prolific writing, graduate advising, teacher training and media work. Her articles have appeared in several local and regional journals. She has advised more than 100 graduate students in at least six universities. She has trained teachers in numerous seminars. She has been consultant for the Mathtinik, Sine'skwela and Hirayamanawari programs. She has helped various government organizations, both national and regional, with educational projects.

A few years back, Ging and I both served in the national board of the Philippine Council for Mathematics Teacher Educators (Mathted), where I witnessed firsthand her humility, her creativity and her enthusiasm to develop the skills of Pinoy math teachers. Last year she became vice president of Mathted for a second time, and succeeded me as editor of the Mathted journal Intersection, and I can think of no better person to take over that responsibility. We also meet regularly in the first quarter of every year, where we both serve as judges in Metrobank's national math competition.

Rehired retiree

Ging is active in many other professional groups, such as the Math Teacher Association of the Philippines, the Math Society of the Philippines and the National Research Council of the Philippines NRCP). She has garnered many awards, from UPRHS in 1983, from UP in 1985, the NRCP in 1996, the Philippine Association and Federation of Teacher Educators in 1997, and from Bato Balani Foundation in 2003. Ging became an Outstanding Kapampangan in 2003. This October Ging will again be honored—this time by Mathted—for her contributions to math education.

Ging's retirement did not last long. She is now dean of the graduate school at Miriam College. "I am a rehired retiree, although I never really retired. I'm busier now than when I was younger than 65. Teaching has been my endless source of joy and fulfillment, and my passion. One exercise I give my students is to form as many words out of the letters in **teacher**. I have formed some 61 words—some are emotion-wrapped, others are love words, still others have negative nuances, and all of them I have found in my more than 50 years of teaching."

In 2004, it was a great honor for me to write about Ging for the Metrobank Foundation's Anniversary volume "10 Outstanding Filipino Teachers." This year I received an even greater honor. Ging nominated me for the Bato Balani Foundation's Tribute to Teachers, and this afternoon at the Araneta Coliseum, three honorees—Batibot founder Ms Feny delos Reyes-Bautista, philosophy pioneers Dr. Florentino Timbreza (De La Salle University) and my Ateneo colleague, Fr. Joseph Roche, SJ—and I will be recognized for our contributions to education. Thank you, Bato Balani, and thank you, Ging.

For inquiries regarding the book "10 Outstanding Filipino Teachers," contact Metrobank Foundation at 898-8898 and 8855, e-mail: foundation@metrobank.com.ph.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Say yes to NO

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

DR. JAIME CLANOR, A LEADING medical practitioner in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, sent me a book on nitric oxide (NO) written by no less than 1998 Nobel awardee for Medicine, Dr. Louis Ignarro. Dr. Ignarro was awarded the Nobel plum together with Professors Robert Furchgott and Ferdi Murad for their pioneering works which led to the discovery of NO as a unique molecule that can literally determine the health outcome of an individual. The three join an elite group of scientists including Albert Einstein, Linus Pauling and Marie Curie, whose discoveries have had a dramatic impact on humankind.

More and more health experts now agree with these 1998 Nobel laureates that more than any single factor, NO may be the key to living a longer, healthier life. So important is the role of this substance, which incidentally is a derivative from the nitrates used in dynamites (from which Alfred Nobel earned his fortune), that many distinguished scientists worldwide are casting their lot on the molecule, dedicating their career and lives to its further study.

Preserving cellular health

Nitric oxide causes the blood vessels to dilate, improving the delivery of nutrition to all cells; hence, preserving cellular health. NO protects the heart, stimulates the brain, kills bacteria, among other beneficial effects. It was a sensation that this simple, common air pollutant, which is formed when nitrogen burns, for instance in automobile exhaust fumes, could exert important functions in the organism. It was particularly surprising since NO is totally different from any other known signal molecule and so unstable that it is converted to nitrate and nitrite within 10 seconds. NO was known to be produced in bacteria but this simple molecule was not expected to be important in higher animals such as mammals and humans.

Scientists are usually restrained in describing their works, but Dr. Ignarro describes the wonder of NO in his book with all the medical superlatives other scientists of his stature would probably be demure in expressing. This just reflects the degree of confidence he has on this substance after dedicating 30 of his most productive years studying this substance.

Good news

Although NO is naturally produced by the body, the level may not be enough in many individuals leading to various ailments particularly strokes, heart attacks and other degenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease and rheumatoid arthritis. The good news is that one can boost one's level of NO by diet, moderate exercise, a little amount of wine and some available dietary supplements.

Dr. Ignarro lists the following foods rich in L-arginine and L-citrulline, amino acids which boost NO level: salmon, soy, peanuts, walnuts, almonds, garbanzo beans, melons, dark chocolate, red meat (in moderation). There are also available dietary supplements containing L-arginine and L-citrulline but I recommend one has to clear it first with one's physician before taking them because there can be some interactions with commonly used drugs, particularly those for the heart and blood pressure.

Has come full circle

Niric oxide has really come full circle. It's interesting that it's related to nitroglycerin. Alfred Nobel invented dynamite, a product derived from the explosion-prone nitroglycerin. When Nobel was taken ill with heart disease, his doctor prescribed nitroglycerin. Nobel refused to take it, since he was aware of the explosive nature of the substance and unbelieving that it can also be good for someone with chest pains. In a letter to a friend, Nobel wrote: "It is ironical that I am now ordered by my physician to eat nitroglycerin."

For a century now, nitroglycerin is commonly used to relieve chest pains due to constriction of the heart arteries. However, it was only after Dr. Ignarro's and his colleagues' dedicated research when it was clarified that nitroglycerin acts by releasing NO gas, and that we can effectively age-proof our body by maintaining a high level of NO.

Why some women don't breastfeed

By Rebecca B. Singson, MD, FPOGS
Contributor

(First of two parts)

IN 1950, 90 PERCENT OF BABIES were breastfed while in 1978 the percentage dropped to 66 among urban poor, and not more than 27 percent of babies in the elite were breastfed.

Current statistics show that at 6 to 7 months of age, less than 2 percent of Filipino infants are exclusively breastfed according to the National Demographic and Health Survey.

Reasons

Here are the reasons women don't breastfeed:

- **No prenatal preparation.** Many women get poor counseling even from their obstetricians during prenatal checkups. Ideally, on the first meeting, mothers should already have psychological starters by reading books and accessing websites on pregnancy and breastfeeding. It is never too early to prepare them if they decide to breastfeed. With proper conditioning, they end up successfully breastfeeding. Especially with pregnancy adolescents, chances of getting them to breastfeed increase over fourfold, if they are advised early on. Younger women, and women with moderate to poor emotional support visitors, are less likely to still be breastfeeding at 3 months.
- **No intrapartum and postpartum support.** Women who had a rough labor, prolonged labor and end up with a C-section, usually want to sleep to recover from such exhausting experience. They prefer to defer breastfeeding for a later time. Studies show mothers who spent one night in the hospital were almost twice as likely to breastfeed than mothers who spent two or three nights in the hospital. This may mean that hospitals perhaps because of the nursery setup, tend to separate mother from baby, unless rooming in occurs.
- **Poor latch on.** Women who experience pain when the baby starts to breastfeed and try to withstand the pain can end up with cracked and sore nipples. This can result from wrong positioning of the baby. The mother and baby should ideally be in the tummy-to-tummy position with the ears of the baby directed to the ceiling. The baby's mouth should include not only the nipple but the areola, too, and must not be allowed to tug on the nipple.

Upon withdrawal of the nipple, it must not assume the shape of the end of a lipstick, but should be a round structure.

A MANGYAN mother never knew milk formula. MANDY NAVASERO

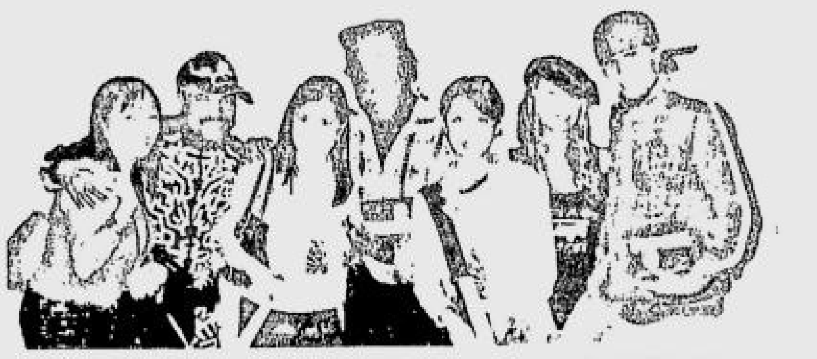
Catch Globe Kantabataan winner Ichthus on MTV

STILL REELING FROM THE RUSH OF THEIR grand prize win in Globe Kantabataan, the biggest and only Youth Song Festival in the Philippines, the young members of Ichthus were even more excited about being featured on MTV. "I'm very excited about this. This is MTV! This is big!" said drummer Kevin Castillo as the band went into the SaGuijo Café & Bar, one of Makati City's prime music and art venues that is a popular haunt for local indie and mainstream bands alike. "It's great being here, just thinking about all the big bands that have played here too," said bassist and bandleader Andrei Panaligan.

After a hearty celebratory dinner with family and friends, the band gamely posed for photographs as the MTV crew arrived with full equipment in tow. The band waited patiently as everything was being set up, showing that they had truly come a long way since the start of the contest: they were now more confident and relaxed in front of the cameras. "We've never felt so special. We stayed in a hotel, got around in our own van, and all the food was provided for," said lead guitarist Andrew Panaligan. "We were really treated like celebrities," agreed keyboardist Jeryal Manansala.

Now, with lights blazing and microphones in hand, Ichthus seemed more at ease as they answered questions and even traded jokes with each other in front of the camera. Andrey took the opportunity to greet the other Globe Kantabataan finalists, who had become their friends over the weeks leading up to the finals, and was grateful to Globe for bringing them all together. "We'd like to thank Globe for giving the youth a chance to express themselves [through the Globe Kantabataan contest," he said.

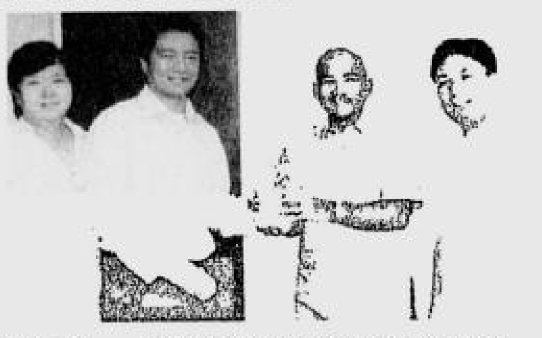
Watch out for their music video only on MTV. You can also continue to download Globe Kantabataan's top five bands' songs as ringtones, polytones, ringback tones, and true tones. What's more, fans can likewise download their logos, text cards, and wallpapers! Just text <BAND CODE> to 2346. The band codes are ICHTHUS for Ichthus' "Sayaskwela," FOOT for Footprint's "Lakas Kabataan," DROP for Drop d's "Bagong Pananaw," SKOOL for 7th Skool's "Skool Bus," and JYLZ for JYLZ's "Iba Tayo."



MENTOS SPONSORS THE BLACK EYED PEAS TOUR

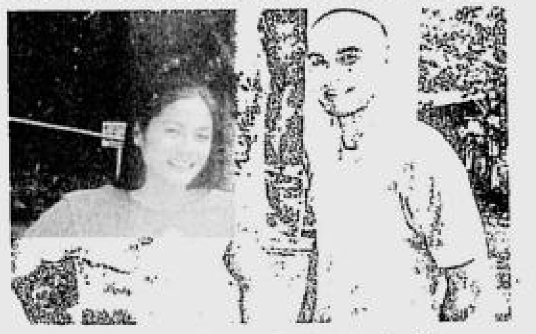
Mentos Ice Chewing Gum sponsored the Black Eyed Peas Monkey Business Tour last July 27, at the Araneta Coliseum. The group's funky sound together with their fresh and cool vibes were a hit among the concert goers, the perfect venue for Mentos Ice Gum's fresh and cool crowd. The Black Eyed Peas even autographed CDs for the lucky winners of Mentos Ice Gum's promo and had a taste of Sugarfree Mentos Ice Chewing Gum themselves. Shown are the Black Eyed Peas with (from left) Anjee Salazar of Viva Entertainment and Fritzie Salem and Lottus Lim of Mentos.

INTEL AWARDS QUISUMBING TORRES



Intel Technology Philippines Inc recently awarded Quisumbing Torres (QT) the 'Law Firm Quality Award' at the QT office in Bonifacio Global City. QT is a member firm of Baker & McKenzie International and is headed by its Managing Partner, lawyer Ricardo P.C. Castro. Photo shows Intel awarding the Quisumbing Torres (QT) Labor Practice Group with the 'Law Firm Quality Award'. From left are: Diane Tan-Andin, Intel Philippines site counsel; lawyer Mat Teofisto, Intel legal adviser; lawyers Gil Roberto L. Zerrudo and Jonathan C. Flaminiano of QT's Labor and Employment Practice Group.

ABS-CBN FOUNDATION, STUDIO 23 LAUNCH BKTV



ABS-CBN Foundation and Studio 23 have joined forces to help take environmental awareness into an entirely new level, with the launch of BKTV (Bantay Kalikasan TV), a youth-oriented show that started airing last Aug. 26. BKTV is all about youth and the environment. Hosted by quirky TV personalities Reema Chanco and Juddha Paolo, the show provides the general public ideas and concrete examples of how to care for the environment. Each episode of BKTV takes its inspiration from essays, short films, photos, and even text messages sent in by the viewers. From exploring topics like waste management and proper garbage disposal to incorporating used materials into unique and interesting fashion designs, BKTV is sure to spark interest among the youth. BKTV, which has made its debut on Studio 23 last Aug. 26 airs, every Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

BITS Clips

AOY Tiangge! Tiangge!

A GREAT TV COMMERCIAL HAS BEEN PROVEN TO help boost the sales of a product, improve the image of a brand, and create stronger bond with the consumers. In a market where consumers are flooded with products that have marginal differentiation, the advertising that touches the hearts and minds of the people will make the difference. And that is what advertising agencies sell - creative ideas that make brands stand out in the clutter. Idea! Idea! - this is the theme of the 2006 Agency of the Year (AOY) Awards. Selling ideas is the inspiration for the event. The awards night will kick-off with the first-ever AOY Tiangge! Tiangge! This will be on Sept. 15, at the Activity Center of Market! Market!

Immigration seminar at AIM

LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY AND EFFICIENTLY accomplish a working visa, tourist visa, and student visa, become a US citizen, migrate anywhere in the US and the road to getting your green card. On Sept. 20, lawyer Mike Templo will hold an immigration seminar at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center Makati City (near greenbelt) from 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The seminar will inform you of the best course of action to take to achieve your goals, provide an overview of the various immigrant and non-immigrant categories so that you can familiarize yourself with US Immigration. Atty. Templo has been residing in New York for seven years, concentrating on immigration and litigation cases. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Touro Law in New York and completed BA Philosophy from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. For those who are interested in attending the immigration seminar, call or text 0917-5380797 or 0917-6082276 and look for Nikki.

Major confab on heart care

THE ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER-HEART INSTITUTE, a center of excellence in Asia for the management of cardiovascular disease, is featuring the latest trends, discoveries and breakthroughs in heart care during its International Symposium on Cardiology, Oct. 5 to 6 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Quezon City. The symposium will touch all aspects of cardiology - clinical, diagnostic, interventional and preventive - and delve on the all-important role of lifestyle in cardiovascular health with such topics as the truth of fad diets, smoking cessation and exercise training. Prospective participants may contact the symposium secretariat at 723-0101 ext. 5532/5529. Online registration is also available through the St. Luke's website www.stluke.com.ph.

The most dynamic MLM company in the country

HDI NETWORK PHILIPPINES OFFERS THE BEST been pollen products available in the market and a truly profitable and long-term compensation plan in the direct selling business. Today, HDI Network continues to care and is dedicated to provide Filipinos with excellent products through research and development to give them value for there money, promote good health and give them the opportunity to have the kind of lifestyle they want for themselves and their loved ones. HDI Network Phils Inc is located at the 3rd floor of Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center.

Mongkok's 8th year

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 8TH ANNIVERSARY, Mongkok Dimsum & Noodles, offers promos to better satiate the appetite of its customers. Chinese food aficionados can treat themselves to a 10 percent discount on all kinds of dimsum Mongkok offers during weekdays, from 8 p.m. onwards. Further, for every group of eight, a complimentary dish worth P150 will be served. Also, the "We Eight at Mongkok Card" which contains eight boxes, will be given to all customers with valid proof of purchase. For every P500 worth of purchase, one of the boxes in the customer's card will be stamped and signed by an authorized personnel at the cashier. Customers with accomplished cards are automatically entitled to join the anniversary raffle. A trip for two to Boracay with accommodation awaits the lucky winners of the raffle. The promo will last for 3 months, from Sept. 1, to Nov. 30. Announcement of the grand prize winner will be in Dec. 16. For franchise inquiries, call 642-8323/642-7285.

Yamaha guitar concert

YAMAHA SCHOOL OF MUSIC PHILIPPINES INC presents the "Guitar-Crossroads" Concert. The annual concert, as always is geared to highlight the young guitarists of Yamaha School of Music Philippines Inc. The concert will be held at the St. Joseph's Theater, La Salle Green Hills on Sept. 23, at 3 p.m. For more details and inquiries, call tel. nos. 897-2338 or 897-2342, visit the website: www.yupangco.com, or drop by any Yamaha Music Store near you.

Free health consultations

CPJ NATURAL DRINK COMPANY INC, EXCLUSIVE producer and main distributor of Sierra Madre Water For Life, is conducting free medical consultations held Tuesdays at the company office located at the Ground Floor, President Tower, Timog Avenue , Quezon City (415-3952, 414-1291, 415-5844). Sierra Madre Water For Life is approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), and available at supermarkets and drugstores.

Prokids Pillow Pals

PROKIDS PREMIUM BABY DIAPERS INTRODUCES the Prokids Pillow Pals. These Pillow Pals are the perfect companion for your little ones when they fall asleep. To get these Pillow Pals, simply collect wrappers with intact points of Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape. With just 8 points allows mommies to get one collectible baby pillow. You can choose from any 4 animal designs: Dog, Pig, Lion or Monkey. Simply submit the required Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape wrappers together with the complete information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium item/s delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, signature of parent/guardian plus the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, landmark information of the address is encouraged for easy reference. Entries are then to be mailed at these addresses: "Prokids Pillow Pals", JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, 31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or to P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City. The chosen premium item/s will then be delivered to your doorstep for free. And what's best about this is mommies may join as many times as they want. Promo starts Sept. 4 to Dec. 31.

Tirona grand reunion

CONRAD BENITEZ, GRANDson of Francisca Tirona-Benitez (co-founder of the Philippine Women's University) has been designated chair of the 3rd Tirona Grand Reunion set on Sunday, Oct. 22, at the Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite. There will be indoor activities and outdoor games for the young and old alike, as well as talent contests and raffles for everyone. A fellowship golf tournament for Tirona and friends is also being scheduled on Friday, Oct. 20, at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, to foster camaraderie and drum up interest/attention for this year's affair. Members of the Tirona/Tria-Tirona clan are requested to log in and register at the clan's website (tirona_clan@yahoogroups.com), or through fax no. 632-924-1848, or call tel. no. 632-920-1071 (c/o Helen) for more details. A gift pack will be given to all early registrants.

Pollution control course

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL Resources-Environment Management Bureau and the Water Environment Association of the Philippines (Weap) will conduct a basic training course for new pollution control officers on Sept. 11 to 14 at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City. The seminar will orient prospective PCOs on the different environmental laws and rules and regulations, EMB policies and programs, PCO duties and responsibilities. EMB Director Arnulfo Hernandez will lead the training to enable industries to improve their environmental management and pollution prevention and enable them to maintain cleaner operation and production of goods. Participants will be accredited as PCOs. For inquiries, please call engineer Ding Briones and Procy Quijano, DENR-EMB-NCR at 781-0482, 781-0485, 781-0471 or Cathy Baguisi, Weap secretariat, 371-9790/410-1119.

Seminar on business etiquette and social graces

THE MANILA BUSINESS COLLEGE-CENTRE FOR the Arts and Cultural Development will hold a day-long seminar on Business Etiquette and Social Graces for professionals and executives. What is corporate image?; How does an executive behave and act in public?; How can one's image build a positive relationship in the organization?; Grooming strategies and dressing for success; are just some of topics in store for the participants. Mariecor Salas-Ding seasoned and well travelled image guru is the resource speaker. The seminar is set for Oct. 16. For more information call (02)781-9861 and look for Thina Lopez.

Love stories from MSV

RELATE YOURSELF IN THE VARIOUS LOVE STORIES written by young novelists of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks. Each one guarantees to take you to a higher level in reading entertainment. Grab a copy of the following MSV titles: "Fighting with Destiny", "My Sweetest Mistake", "Sumuko Ką Na, Puso", among others. Incidentally, Bookware Publishing Corp is calling the attention of those interested in becoming the next best-selling romance writers in the country. For more information, call 631-8894.

Product FILES

With EQ Dry Diapers, Tintin is blooming

AS A TV PERSONALITY, TINTIN BERSOLA-Babao is busy as ever. But she still maintains her youthful and radiant looks because she makes sure that she gets enough sleep to keep her looking fresh. Exercise, proper diet and a positive outlook in life is also a must in her healthy lifestyle. As a mommy to her precious baby Antonia, choosing the right diaper makes her worry-free, and makes her blooming as ever. Being a mommy has never been this easy with EQ Dry Diapers. Tintin gets restful sleep because EQ Dry gives overnight protection that keeps Antonia dry all night. It has 100 percent breathable cover keeps her baby feel fresh all the time. And, most importantly, she doesn't have to worry about skin irritations because EQ Dry has a soft cloth-like cover that prevents skin friction on baby's delicate skin. EQ Dry gives Mommy Tintin peace of mind so she can spend less time worrying about Antonia and more time bonding with her. And bonding time with the family is truly one of the ingredients of a happy family, which makes Tintin bloom even more. And of course, EQ Diapers are the only diapers that can make both babies and mommies happy. EQ Dry Diapers are economical and give value for money while making babies happy and comfortable all the time.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE TWO-YEAR SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENTS OF LBP

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project stated below, under the following terms and conditions:

ITB No. / Cont. Package No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Non-Refundable Fee	Source of Funds
2006-207	Two-Year Security Services Requirements for the following areas:			
1	NCR-North of Pasig - 110 SGs	P 30,465,600.00	P 15,300.00	LBP Funds
2	NCR-South of Pasig - 124 SGs	34,343,040.00	17,200.00	LBP Funds
3	Cagayan & East Central Luzon - 67 SGs	13,227,240.00	6,700.00	LBP Funds
4	Laguna, South and West & Southern Luzon - 104 SGs	22,969,920.00	11,500.00	LBP Funds
5	Panay and Negros Islands - 66 SGs	12,117,600.00	6,100.00	LBP Funds
6	Central and East Visayas - 87 SGs	16,317,720.00	8,200.00	LBP Funds
7	Regions 10 and 11 - 107 SGs	20,121,720.00	10,100.00	LBP Funds
8	Regions 9 and 12 - 98 SGs	17,914,440.00	9,000.00	LBP Funds

The following suppliers may participate in the bidding:

- Suppliers with eligibility requirements prescribed under the IRR-A of RA 9184.
- Suppliers with experience in providing security services to a bank duly authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.
- Suppliers with no pending case against Land Bank of the Philippines or vice versa.
- Suppliers with profitable operation for the last three (3) years as evidenced by its submission of Audited Financial Statements for 2003, 2004 and 2005.
- Suppliers who have paid the required non-refundable fee amounting to .05% of the ABC of the applicable package, rounded off to the next hundredths.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on **October 18, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated opposite the contract package where supplier intends to bid.**

The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **September 28, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the 10th Floor, Function Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA **9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)**.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI – September 9 & 16, 2006)

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to submit offers to the Manager, Materials and Supplies Department, Level I, Core B, New GSIS Headquarters Building, Pasay City for the Negotiated Sale of the following motor vehicles on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis until September 18, 2006.

Quantity	Description
Two (2)	Alfa Romeo, model 2002, plate no. SFX-872 and SFX-882, gasoline engine
One (1)	Mitsubishi Pajero, model 1999, Intercooler Turbo 1800, plate no. SGY-376, diesel engine
One (1)	Toyota Corona, model 1992, plate no. SEP-366
One (1)	Toyota Corona, model 1980, plate no. SAS-952

The above items may be inspected at the New GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City during office hours. For further inquiry please contact Mr. Ernesto Lopez at Tel nos. 891-62-95 or 891-6161 loc 4721

The GSIS/PRDC reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defect/s or informality of the offers received, to accept the offer most advantageous to the System; and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the GSIS/PRDC in this regard shall be final and binding.

(SGD) ARNALDO C. CUASAY
Chairperson

(PDI--Sept. 6, 9 & 12, 2006)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Baguio Economic Zone Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel Nos. 447-3331; 447-3683; 447-3328; 447-3320; 447-3333
Telefax 447-3330

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through the BAGUIO CITY ECONOMIC ZONE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BCEZ-BAC), invites potential bidders to apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid for the following projects:

Project No.	Project Title	Approved Budget for the Contract (P)	Contract Duration (Days)
1	Welcome Arches for BCEZ	2,889,506.96	49
2	Installation of Feeders 6, 7, & 8	9,643,636.90	45

A Bidder should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of contracts, have completed a single similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the BAC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. (For Project No. 2, at least a single completed project similar to the contract to be bid for NPC, TRANSCO, distribution utilities, IPPs, Electric Cooperatives and other industrial/Commercial Establishment). Interested bidders must submit their respective Letters of Intent (LOIs) and a copy of their PCAB Licenses and G-EPS Registration Certificates at the address given below to secure the Eligibility Documents. (The original PCAB License and G-EPS Registration Certificate must be presented for verification/authentication purposes). Applications for Eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. Complete sets of Bid Documents may be purchased by eligible bidders from the BCEZ-BAC secretariat upon payment of non refundable fees of P2,000.00 for project no. 1 and P5,000.00 for project no. 2.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Only bids from eligible bidders submitted at the address below will be opened. The contract for each project will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. Bids exceeding the ABC will automatically be rejected.

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

		PROJECT NO. 1	PROJECT NO. 2
1	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Sept. 5-11, 2006	Sept. 5-11, 2006
2	Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Documents	Sept. 15, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Sept. 15, 2006 - 2:00 PM
3	Opening of Eligibility Documents/ Eligibility Check	Sept. 15, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Sept. 15, 2006 - 2:00 PM
4	Notice of Eligibility	Sept. 18, 2006	Sept. 18, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 19-29, 2006	Sept. 19-29, 2006
6.	Pre-bid Conference (with site inspection)	Oct. 3, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Oct. 3, 2006 - 2:00 PM
7.	Deadline of Submission of Bids	Oct. 16, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Oct. 16, 2006 - 2:00 PM
8.	Opening of Bid Documents	Oct. 16, 2006 - 10:30 AM	Oct. 16, 2006 - 2:00 PM

PEZA-BCEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The BCEZ-BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for the expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
2nd Floor, Administration Building, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Drive
Loakan, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 447-3331, 4474155 / Telefax No. 447-3330
E-mail: bcez@mro.com.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. RENE U. BAYSA
BCEZ-BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 2 & 9, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Eulalia D. Trazo	819 Coronado St., Hulo, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila	Isabelo C. Allorin SS#06-1013629-6	June 10, 2005
2)	Alicia Tan Alonde	#45 P. Cui St., Cebu City	Feliciano Alonde SS#03-0146128-3	May 22, 2004
3)	Herminia L. Vergara	Unknown	Roberto Ballo SS#03-2835651-7	June 19, 2006
4)	Rowena Borras Luis Borras Veneranda Borras	Unknown	Salvador F. Borras SS#03-5015540-1	November 29, 2005
5)	Adela Burbano	San Francisco, Guinobatan, Albay	Rogelio O. Burban SS#03-4515298-5	November 28, 2004
6)	Vilma Berana	Unknown	Jessie M. Castro SS#33-5600141-7	October 25, 2005
7)	Gloria Maranga Compra Gloria M. Compra	Unknown	Edgar G. Compra SS#03-3982918-5	June 13, 2006
8)	Cordelia Viray	102 Chico St., Comembo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati, MM	Gelulio C. David SS#03-7830832-4	January 21, 2006
9)	Asuncion Delos Santos	Unknown	Ricardo Delos Santos SS#03-0065560-5	July 25, 2006
10)	Adelia Dimalaluan	Unknown	Pablito Dimalaluan SS#03-2948031-4	July 4, 2006
11)	Angelita Diones	Sampaloc, Manila	Cresencio A. Diones SS#03-7761903-0	May 27, 2003
12)	Leona Grulas Encabo	148 Kalayaan Subd., Pasig City	Marino S. Encabo SS#03-4085538-4	September 11, 2005
13)	Leony C. Formeloza	Unknown	Elmor B. Formeloza SS#02-0151926-4	January 22, 2003
14)	Leonora Ganancial	Unknown	Dominador Ganancial SS#03-0345734-7	February 26, 2006
15)	Virginia A. Garcia	Unknown	Julio P. Garcia SS#03-1128555-6	January 3, 2004
16)	Merdica B. Galacio (Escoton)	Unknown	Camilo Golacio SS#09-0407308-1	February 24, 1999
17)	Julita	Phillips, Bukidnon	Yolando Jacintos SS#08-0766956-3	October 2, 2001
18)	Virginia Rodriguez	294 N. Bay Blvd., Navotas, Metro Manila	Eduardo Labitag SS#03-3443479-5	March 22, 2006
19)	Lourdes Villareal Lozano	Gamu, Isabela	Rogelio Lozano SS#02-0193920-0	December 21, 2004
20)	Maria Mabanag	Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City	Wilfredo Mabanag SS#33-5060543-7	May 31, 2006
21)	Monaliza V. Cano	391 Purok I, Sucat, Muntinlupa	Saturnino Marquez SS#03-6602491-1	November 9, 2005
22)	Julia Revera	Unknown	Federico Mortel SS#03-0207302-3	January 30, 2004
23)	Carmi Orejola	Unknown	Edgardo R. Orejola SS#03-4969262-9	June 23, 2006
24)	Milagros Sabado	1674 Spring St., Mountain View, California 94043 USA	Rafael Oribello SS#03-1262082-2	May 4, 2005
25)	Luisa Oronos	Telegrafo, Tolosa, Leyte	Lolito Oronos SS#06-0264741-8	July 31, 2006
26)	Ludy G. Ortiz	Unknown	Donato F. Ortiz SS#03-2929495-3	May 26, 2006
27)	Raquel D. Aquino	Lukban, Laguna	Marcelino San Diego-Pajarillo SS#03-6235555-8	September 1, 2002
28)	Avelina Cordero	Unknown	Nestor Reto SS#03-8516973-4	June 15, 2006
29)	Rosamira Santos	3-C Pinatubo St., Cubao, Q.C.	Rolando Santos SS#03-4215166-2	October 3, 2005
30)	Margarita Tipaniro	Manila	Nestor V. Tipaniro SS#07-1123945-8	November 24, 2003

– Nothing follows –

(PDI – September 9, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply of Security Services for Offices, Facilities and Assets of Transco, South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
[TRANS-06-SEC-EBD-03]

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance (TRANSCO-SLOM)* through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Php107,972,048.16* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (for 2 years) to payments under the contract for *TRANS-06-SEC-EBD-03 (Supply of Security Services for Offices, Facilities and Assets of TransCo, South Luzon Operations & Maintenance.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Supply of Security Services for Offices, Facilities and Assets of TransCo, South Luzon Operations and Maintenance.* Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all Security Agencies who are:
   - a) Wholly owned Filipino private Security Agency;
   - b) Actively registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
   - c) Holder of regular License to Operate issued by the Security Agency and Guards Supervisory Division (SAGSD), Philippine National Police (PNP);
   - d) Has been operating for the last five (5) years and have actually and continuously posted at least two hundred guards during the past two (2) years immediately preceding the submission of eligibility documents.

   Delivery of the SERVICES is required *as listed below.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Package No.	ABC	Location	No. of Guards
Package I	Php43,737,754.08 (for 2 years)	Biñan, SLOM Dasmariñas S/S Rosario S/S Batangas S/S Tagaytay S/S Ternate S/S Mt. Tamayo R/S Zapote S/S	46 39 6 28 3 6 3 9
Total No. of Guards			140

Package No.	ABC	Location	No. of Guards
Package II	Php38,266,544.88 (for 2 years)	Sucat S/S Calamba S/S Los Baños S/S Mt. Maunong R/S Kalayaan EHV S/S Kalayaan Central Warehouse Mak-Ban S/S Fami S/S Tayabas S/S Gumaca S/S	15 9 3 3 12 15 15 3 42 21
Total No. of Guards			138

Package No.	ABC	Location	No. of Guards
Package III	Php25,967,749.20 (for 2 years)	Naga S/S Naga Converter Daraga S/S HVDC Sta Magdalena HVDC Catabanga Balogo S/S Loabo S/S Daguit R/S	30 12 35 3 6 3 19 3
Total No. of Guards			111

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations & Maintenance (SLOM) Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M on *September 12-October 03, 2006.*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from *September 12-October 03, 2006* at the address below and upon submission of letter of intent and payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php1,000.00 per package.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.* at *the address below.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *October 19, 2006, 9:30 A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form stated in Section II Instructions to Bidders Clause 22 of the Tender Documents in Philippine peso or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *October 19, 2006 / 9:30 A. M* at the *OAVP Conference Room B, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, SLOM
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera, BAC Chairman
Regional Contracts Management Office
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna
Tel. No. (02) 9814576 local 4007, 4094, 4053
Website : www.transco.ph

RUBEN G. CASTUERA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee/
Dept. Manager PSMD South

(PDI–Sept. 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
UNHWA GLOBAL PHILIPPINES INC. 63 Ma. Elena St., Bahay Toro, Quezon City	Seung Yong Wi	Operations Manager
INSTITUTIONAL SHAREHOLDER SERVICES, INC. 28/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City	Jun Wu	Research Operations Specialist
SUTHERLAND GLOBAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Export Bank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Randall Eric Arrayan	Training Supervisor
INNOSS MULTI-DYNAMIC CORPORATION Unit 518 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd. cor. Saint Francis St., Mandaluyong City	Sang Don Sohn	Supervisor
PHILIPPINE BIO-SCIENCES CO., INC. 19/F Unit C, Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Dafei Huang	Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Project Manager
FULL STAR HAINANESE INCORPORATED MM 1156 G/F North Building SM Mall of Asia Bay Blvd., Pasay City	Kang Liang Hoe	Consultant
TES PHILIPPINES, INC. c/o Sumitomo Corporation, EDSA MRT Project Office, North Avenue, Quezon City	Kiyoshi Morita	President
ICT MARKETING SERVICES, INC. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	John Langford	Senior Vice President for Operations

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 9, 2006)

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- With at least 2 years teaching experience
- She should have an excellent English communication skills-written and oral
- With background in child care
- She is willing to relocate in Bahrain

The applicant may submit her CV to:
Almasura International Manpower Services
Rm. 309 Merchant Bldg. Padre Faura St.,
Ermita, Manila Tel. 5281749
P.O.E.A LICENSE – 072-LB-120105-LP

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SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) as authorized under SRA Board Resolution No. 2006-073 dated July 6, 2006, invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor, materials and equipment in behalf of the Philippine Sugar Corporation (PHILSUCOR) for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Supply of Labor, Materials and Equipment for the Renovation of Philippine Sugar Corporation (PHILSUCOR) Office including the repair of ceiling of the area for lease.
Location	Unit 1405 Security Bank Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 1.587 M
Contract Duration	90 days
PCAB License	Small B

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct a post-qualification evaluation of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities during office hours is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Sept. 11-25, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Sept. 11-25, 2006
3.	Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 28, 2006
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Oct. 3, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 3-6, 2006
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 10, 2006
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	Oct. 23, 2006

The time of the Pre-Bid Conference and the Receipt and Opening of Bids shall be at 9:00 A.M. on the specified dates and the corresponding venue shall be at the SRA Training Room, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at its BAC SECRETARIAT, SRA Annex Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, upon their submission of LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 to the SRA Treasury Division, Quezon City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

For particulars, please contact — BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. 929-6837

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,500.00 to the SRA Treasury Division.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – September 9 & 16, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
11TH Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 10, Davao City

IN RE : CORPORATE REHABILITATION OF FERRO STEEL, INC., —versus— FERRO STEEL, INC., Petitioner.

SP. PROC. NO. 8772-06

x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -x

STAY ORDER

Petitioner, on August 23, 2006, filed herein petition alleging that it is a corporation with principal office address at Zone 1, Barrio Ilang, Km. 14, Davao City; that since its incorporation, it had been viable and financially profitable processing steel billets by the second half of year 1998 to mid-2006; that because of the Asian financial crisis, devaluation of the peso, and the continuing rise in the price of bunker oil, a rapid deterioration of its financial stability and inability to pay its debts ensued; that because petitioner's liquidity position is tight, it foresees the impossibility of meeting its maturing debts when they fall due and, in fact, it has already defaulted in its obligation with a Taiwanese lender and has recently failed to service its debts to banks; that since the obligations would not be met, problems will arise that would impair the operation of the petitioner and its effort to rehabilitate its business; that the Taiwanese lender is now threatening to foreclose on its mortgages and that although there is no pending court action against herein petitioner in any judicial or quasi-judicial body, there is reasonable ground to believe that some may be forthcoming; but, notwithstanding its current financial difficulties, petitioner believes that it still has a financially sound and viable business which can and should be returned to financial health by the implementation of its proposed Rehabilitation Plans. Hence, it is presenting Options 1 and 2 of its Rehabilitation Plans for approval of its creditors as well as the Court.

Finding the petition together with its annexes sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby:

1. Appoints Atty. Ruben C. Ladia of Pasig City, Metro Manila, as Rehabilitation Receiver with a bond in the amount of *ONE MILLION (Php1,000,000.00) PESOS;*
2. Stays the enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
3. Prohibits petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
4. Prohibits petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the petition;
5. Prohibits the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payment for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of the Stay Order;
6. Directs the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of the Stay Order;
7. Fixes the initial hearing of the petition on October 30, 2006, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning;
8. Directs petitioner to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks starting not later than seven (7) days from the issuance of this Order;
9. Directs all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve with the court and on the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings;
10. Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes to enable them to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing on October 30, 2006, otherwise they will be barred from participating in the proceedings of this case.

The petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Order and the Petition *(with annexes)* on the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by the Court, Atty. Ruben C. Ladia of Pasig City, Metro Manila, who is requested to manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment and if he accepts said appointment, to take his oath before the Branch Clerk of Court of this Court and post the corresponding bond as aforementioned in favor of the petitioner to guarantee the faithful performance of his functions as receiver, not later than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN IN CHAMBERS this 24th day of August 2006, at Davao City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **JAIME V. QUITAIN**
JUDGE

JVQ.map082406
Copy furnished:

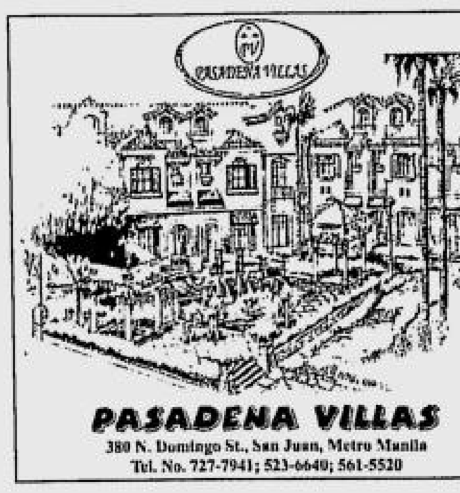
Atty. Reynaldo C. Garcia
Atty. Arlex L. Ines
Atty. Catherine U. Nuñez
GARCIA INES VILLACARLOS & GARCIA LAW OFFICES
205 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City

Atty. Ruben C. Ladia
KINTANAR JAMON PARUNGO & LADIA LAW FIRM
11th Floor, Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Securities and Exchange Commission
Juna Subdivision, Matina
Davao City

Office of the Clerk of Court
Hall of Justice
Ecoland, Davao City

(PDI–Sept. 9 & 16, 2006)



PASADENA VILLAS
380 N. Domingo St., San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 727-7941; 523-6640; 561-5520

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicle

1999 BMW 520IA,
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For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño. Tel.# **878-54-57**

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby served upon the public that the intestate state of the late JOSE RIZAL M. FERNANDO of 2243 G. del Pilar St., Singalong, Manila consisting of Thirteen (13) parcels of land, have been extrajudicially settled by his sole and only heir ENGRACIA DOLORES TOLENTINO represented by SUSAN T. CLASIO, by way of a public instrument denominated as Affidavit of Self-Adjudication, duly executed and as Acknowledged before Notary Public Nyorlito P. Galvan and entered in the Notarial Register as Doc. No. 397, Page No. 81, Book No. 1, Series of 2006

(PDI–Aug. 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2006)

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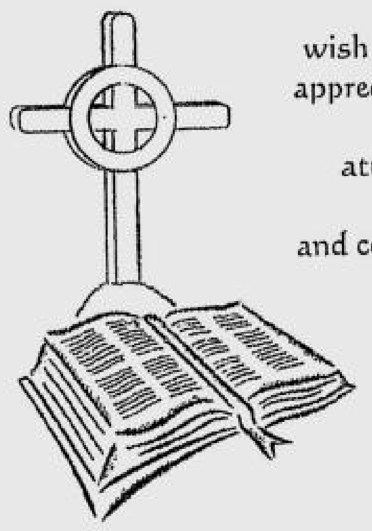
Message of Thanks

We, the family of late

Eugenio G. Cruz, Sr. & Sinagtala D.J. Cruz

Malabon City & Marikina City



wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses, prayers, gave donations, sent flowers, kept vigil, attend funeral rites, and message of sympathy, and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during the hour of our bereavement.

-Cruz Family

When loved one go ahead of us it's hard to say "Good-Bye".
And in our grief and sorrow we are tempted to ask "Why?",
But they have found the peace & joy this world
can never give
And in GOD's heavenly home it's they...
Not We, who really live...

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

The Board of Directors, the President, Executives and Employees of

BJ Marthel International, Inc.

condole with the family of

FLORENCIO A. MARTIN

Vice President-Administration and Corporate Secretary

who joined his Creator on September 6, 2006 at the age of 78.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel,
Sucat Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 12, 2006.

"There is no other way to life and to true inner peace, than the way of the Cross."
(from The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis)

Forever in our hearts...

We remember our beloved

ATTY. JOSE SANTIAGO ATIENZA

Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre

who joined his Creator on 10 September 1998

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated tomorrow in the following churches:

St. Peter's Parish Church, Apalit, Pampanga	8:00 AM
Parokya ni San Miguel Arkanghel, Linapacan, Palawan	8:00 AM
Divina Pastora National Shrine, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija	8:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Guagua, Pampanga	8:30 AM
Villa San Miguel Chapel, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	9:00 AM
San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish, Aniban, Bacoor, Cavite	9:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	12:15 NN
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, Welfareville, Mandaluyong City	4:00 PM

His wife, **Esther M. Cacnio**, his children/in-laws: **Paz, Jun & Rae, Manny & Rona** and **Michael**; and his grandchildren: **Jella, Julianne, Justinne, Lyka, Mico** and **Tricia** request the pious readers to say a prayer for his eternal repose.

RICHARD "ALLEN" G. TUMAO

(January 10, 1945 – September 7, 2006)
Peacefully joined our Lord and his mother Ma. Lourdes at the age of 61.

His father **Sabas Lim Tumao**; brothers **Raymond & Ronald**; sisters **Jeanette Atienza, Jessica, Judith Ho, Jovita Corrigan**; in-laws, **Joseph Ho, Paul Corrigan, Leah Lagrama, Aimee Silva**; nephews and nieces, **Boom Boom (†), Vanessa, Aaron, Theodore, Christian, Nika, Joao-Javier, Girard, Rachel, Boris** and **Fritz**, request the pious reader to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Baltazar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment shall be at the Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat, Parañaque on a date to be announced later.

CARD OF THANKS

On August 1, 2006 our beloved

Ester Roces Arboleda

Peacefully joined our Lord
in Everlasting Life.

For all loved ones, friends, colleagues
and all who offered their time, prayers,
offerings and consolations

to you we offer our deepest gratitude,
and our prayer for God's blessing
in your life today and beyond.

ARBOLEDA-ROCES FAMILY
Mass offerings on September 9, 2006

GREGORIA C. HILAO

November 17, 1922 – September 5, 2006

Wife of the late **Ret. Judge Rafael Hilao**

Her body lies in state at #1 Yujuico St., Tanay, Rizal. Interment will be Sept. 10, 2006 at Haven of Rest, Tanay, Rizal at 2 pm.

We, the family of the late

MAURO CASTILLO MENDOZA

would like to express our heartfelt gratitude
to all those who condoled with us
and shared our grief over his passing.

Landa & Jim Carlson   Cecille & Mario Flores
Angelo & Emy Mendoza
Ester & Rudy Legaspi   Marie & Andy Torres

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

Hon. IMELDA CRISOL ROCES

of Legazpi City, Albay
Vice-Chairperson & Executive Officer,
National Police Commission; Former Mayor, Legazpi City

Joined her Creator last September 7, 2006 at the age of 70 and was reunited with her husband, **Dr. Rudecindo F. Roces**; parents, **Avelino** and **Matilde Crisol**; siblings and in-laws, **Jose** and **Carmen (Borromeo)**, **Honesto**, **Salvacion** and **Rodrigo Salazar**, **Adolfo** and **Lourdes (Alcantara)** and **Rafael**.

Her bereaved children, **Billy**, **Ramon** and **Kim (Lira)**, **Angel** and **Aggie (Montemayor)**, **Martin** and **Mabeth (Rivera)**, and **Bitoy** and **Mylene (Cruz)**; grandchildren, sister-in-law, **Lourdes O. Roces**, and nephews and nieces request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City on Saturday, September 9, 2006 and will be brought to Legazpi City on Sunday, September 10, 2006.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at the Albay Catholic Cemetery, Legazpi City.

Delia M. Castañeda-Gutierrez

of BF Homes, Parañaque and
Bontoc, Mountain Province

December 17, 1954 - September 6, 2006

Beloved wife and mother

Has entered the Grace of her Creator

She is survived by her husband **Bombing**, children **Barry** and **Maya**, **Paolo Lorenzo**, **Debra Andrea**, **Juan Carlo**, and **Miguel Raymundo**, and grandson **Aemon Elias**.

Her remains lie in state at the Acacia Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced later.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of her soul.

THE REDEMPTORIST CONGREGATION
OF THE CEBU PROVINCE

regretfully announces the death of

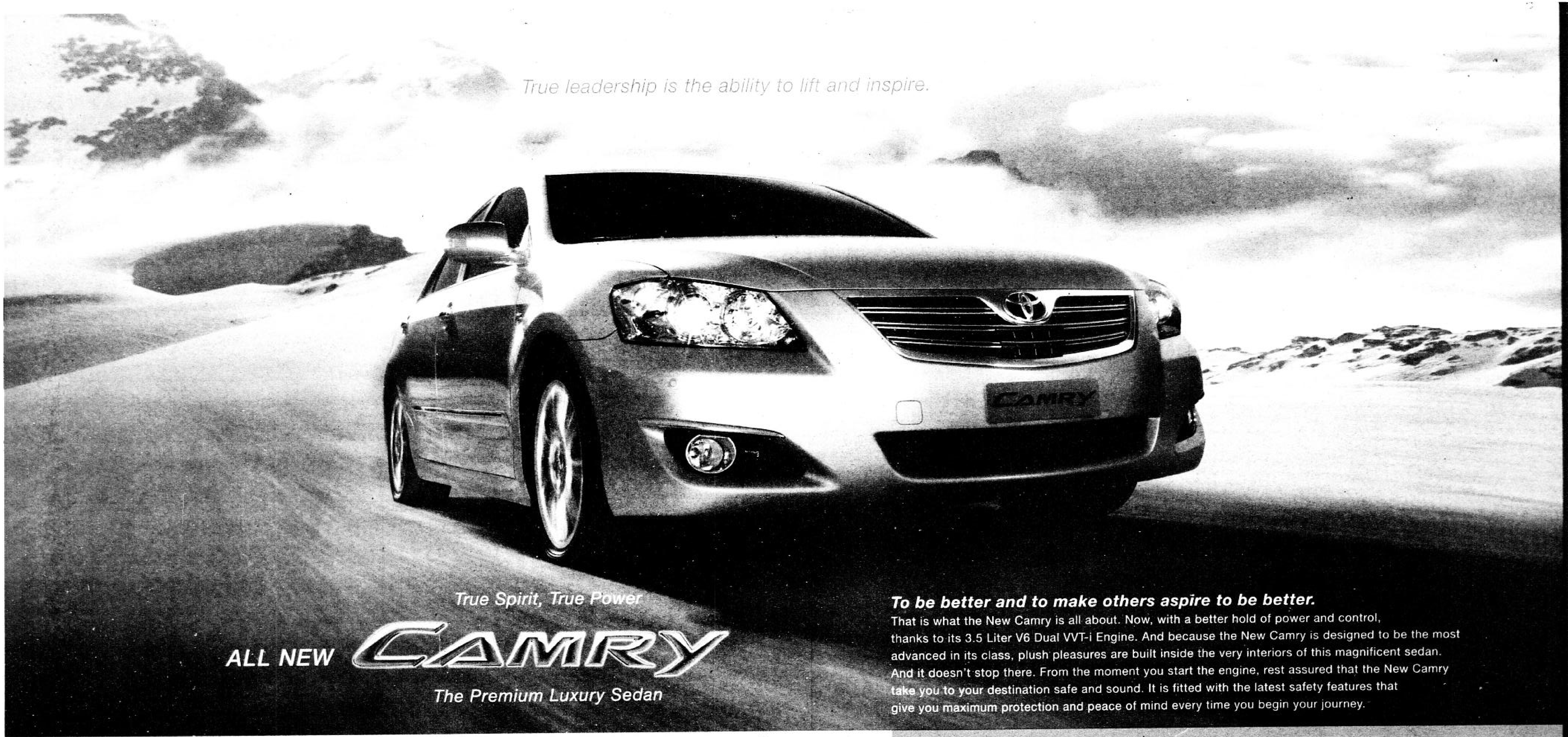
REV. FR. PETER MULROONEY, CSSR

Born: August 18, 1912
Religious Profession: September 8, 1934
Ordination to the priesthood: September 24, 1939
Died on September 7, 2006

Funeral mass from the Redemptorist Church, Cebu City,
September 11, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

"Anyone who perseveres and dies in the Congregation
will inherit a crown in heaven"

St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori
Founder of the Redemptorist Congregation



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That is what the New Camry is all about. Now, with a better hold of power and control, thanks to its 3.5 Liter V6 Dual VVT-i Engine. And because the New Camry is designed to be the most advanced in its class, plush pleasures are built inside the very interiors of this magnificent sedan. And it doesn't stop there. From the moment you start the engine, rest assured that the New Camry take you to your destination safe and sound. It is fitted with the latest safety features that give you maximum protection and peace of mind every time you begin your journey.

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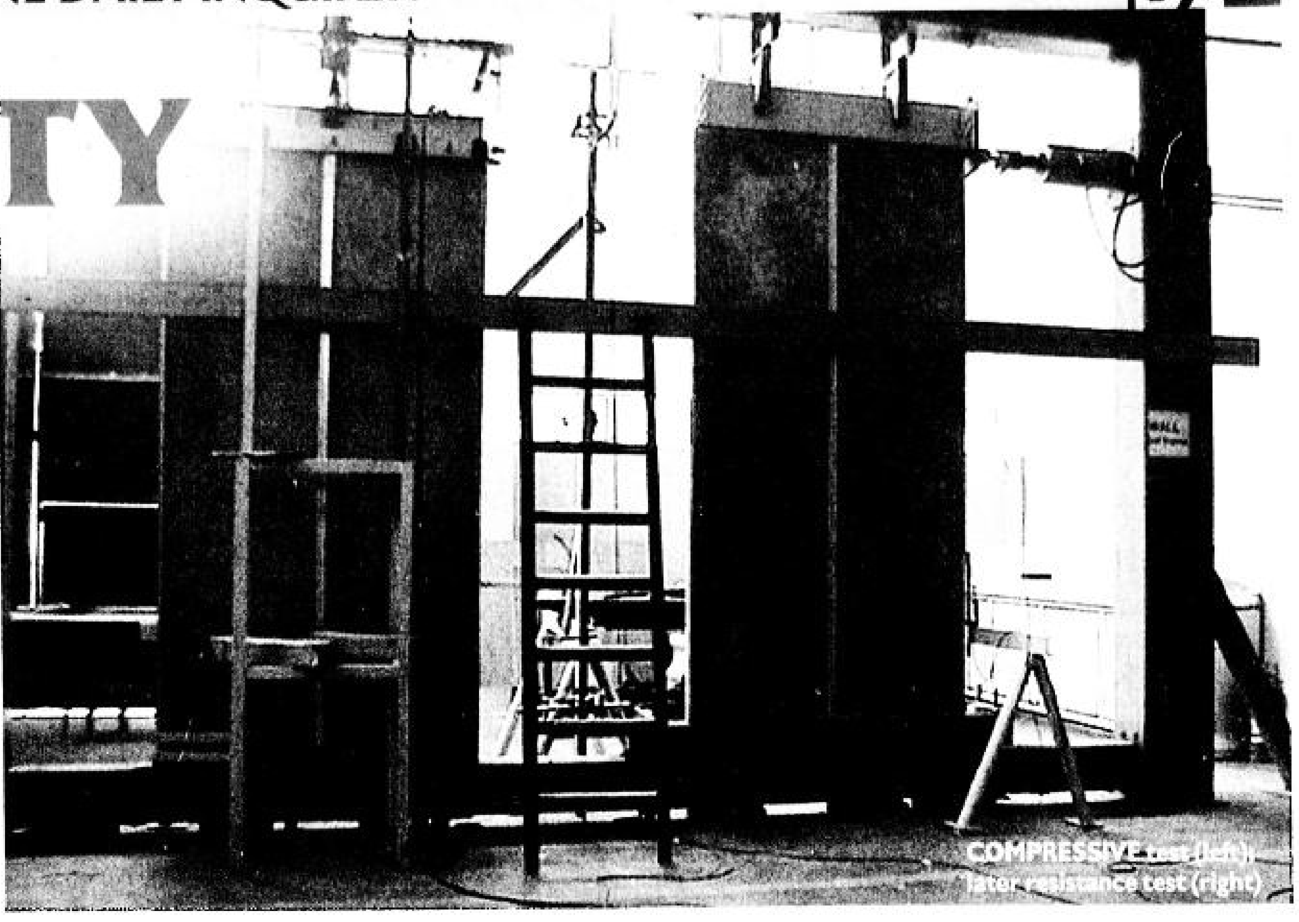
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY

How does your wall 'behave'?

Team subjects prefab wall to earthquake, wind forces



COMPRESSIVE test (left), later resistance test (right)

By Tessa R. Salazar

PREFABRICATED WALLS ARE the preferred construction materials for today's fast-paced housing development.

Prefabs make structures be built faster, their materials be more lightweight (thus they're easier and safer to handle and require fewer manpower), and leave less construction waste.

Ultimately, the use of prefabs makes finished structures more cost-efficient, and the consistency in quality across all structures is maintained. The only question that remains is whether lightweight prefab materials can withstand natural extremes such as typhoon-scale winds or high-intensity earthquakes.

Wall testing centers

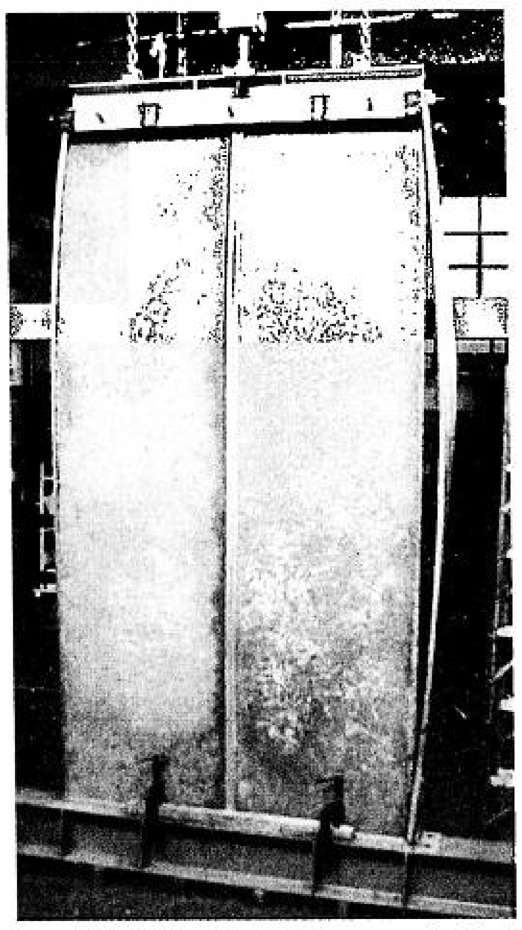
Engineers don't have to wait for the "Big One" to put that question to rest. Believe it or not, there are wall testing centers in the Philippines, and teams whose job is to check where these prefab walls stand when push comes to shove.

The Housing Technologies Program of the Forest Products Research and Development Institute, with Director Florence P. Soriano at the helm, is just one of these teams.

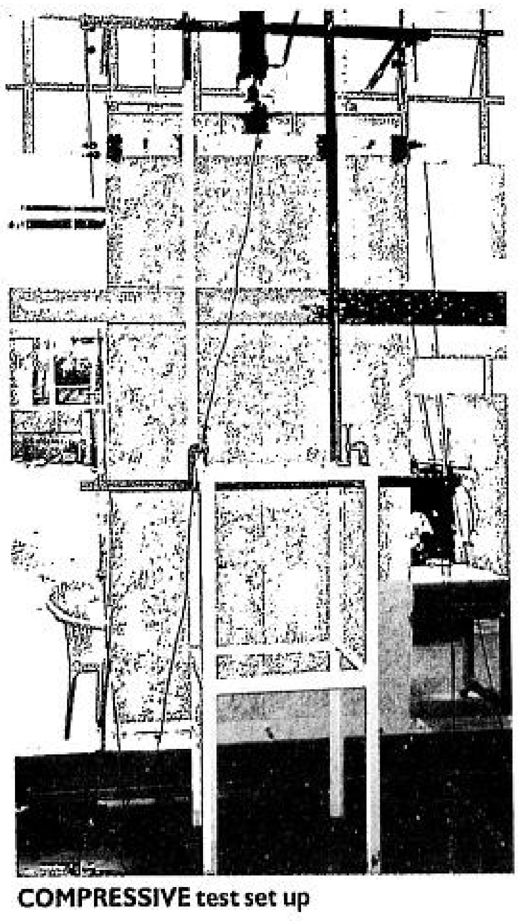
It does performance tests of emerging prefabricated wall systems in the Philippines. The centerpiece of this effort is a fully automated wall-testing facility. The facility tests the behavioral responses of wall specimens, and the results can be readily seen in a computer.

The FPRDI's structural test lab also tests for safety, quality and strength. The facility, which became operational in 2004, enabled FPRDI to become one of the screening groups

HOW/ B2-2



BUCKLED specimen due to compressive load as a result of the compressive test



COMPRESSIVE test set up

Introducing another Landmark,
W.H. Taft Residences.

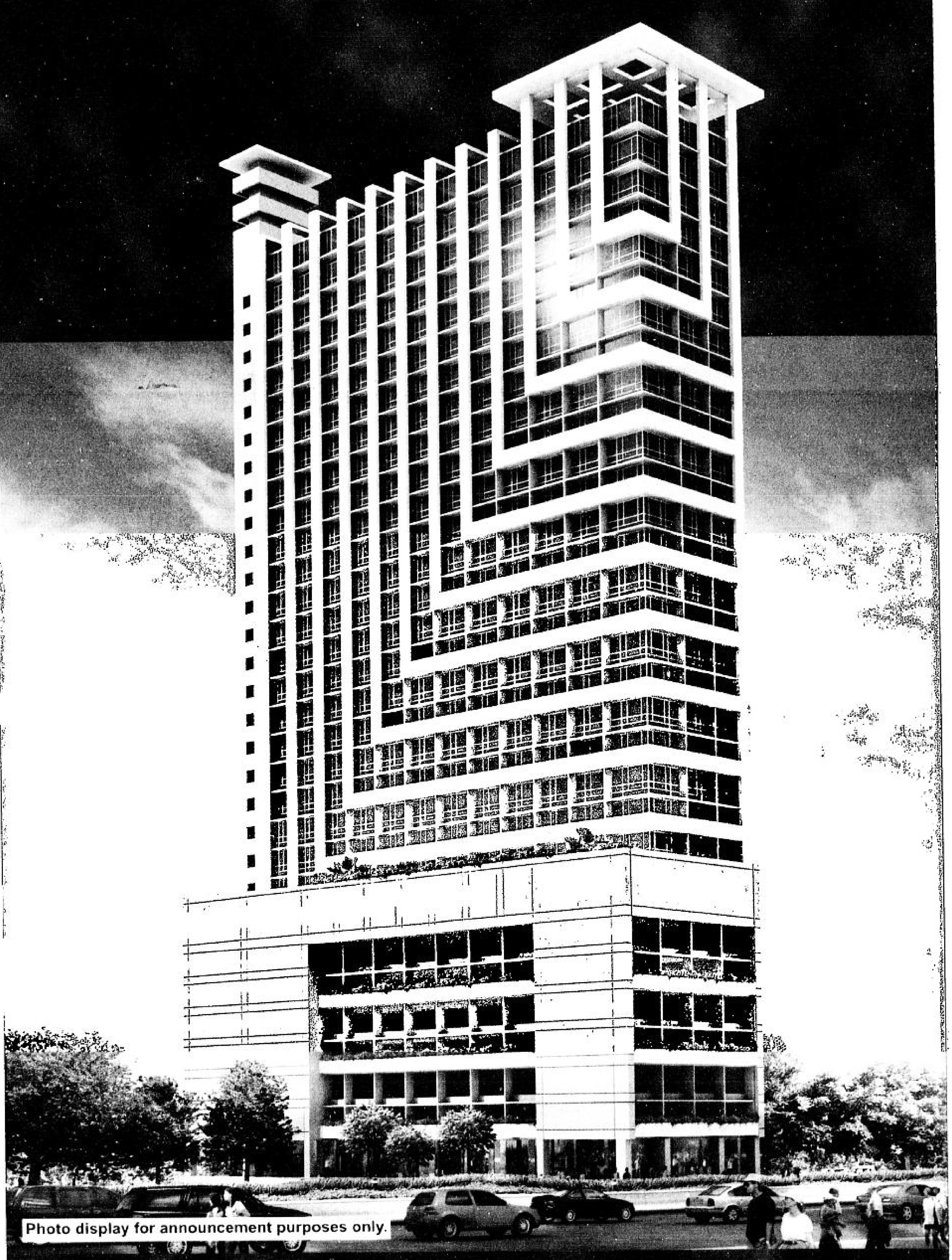


Photo display for announcement purposes only.

The latest 30-storey landmark being developed by **Philtown Properties** along Taft Avenue right beside De La Salle University. Embellished with stunningly modern looks and facilities such as a multi-purpose area, swimming pool and WiFi technology. The **W.H. Taft Residences** is the ideal living space both for college students and professionals. So prepare yourself for the art of urban living at the **W.H. Taft Residences**.

To know more about Philtown's other landmark projects, you may call us at 637-8936, 637-8919, 818-1977, 818-1266 or at 0917-8272549 or email us at mdfoz@philtown.com.ph

PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties
Beyond condos, Landmarks.

Elderly-friendly homes

"Old places and old persons in their turn, when spirit dwells in them, have an intrinsic vitality of which youth is incapable, precisely, the balance and wisdom that come from long perspectives and broad foundations." — George Santayana

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

IN MANY FILIPINO HOMES TODAY, WE MAY find a member of the family, revered for his or her wisdom, entrusted with the supervision of our precious children, or simply regarded with fondness—the grandparent. Despite the apparent sophistication of today's lifestyle, the quaint trait of respect for our elders remains strong.

Unlike in western cultures wherein older folks are shuttled off to nursing homes or retirement farms, the average Asian family still offers personal care and attention to its senior members. For this reason, it may be a good idea to look at our homes and ensure that these are suitable for our beloved elders.

Slip-free floors

One of the most basic factors we can suggest toward an elderly-friendly abode is ensuring that the floors of our home are slip-free. Choose tiles that are textured, rather than smooth, to add traction for slippered feet. For outdoor living spaces, you may choose to treat your floors with a nonskid chemical coating available in local hardware stores that discourages the growth of mold and algae.

Stairs would need to have proper railings and banisters that are sturdy and easy to grip. If possible, build steps with a low rise in order to be kind to stiff limbs. Attend to loose rugs and carpets to avoid tripping accidents. In extreme cases, ramps may have to be installed for access to elevated areas and hallways must be cleared for wheelchair maneuverability.

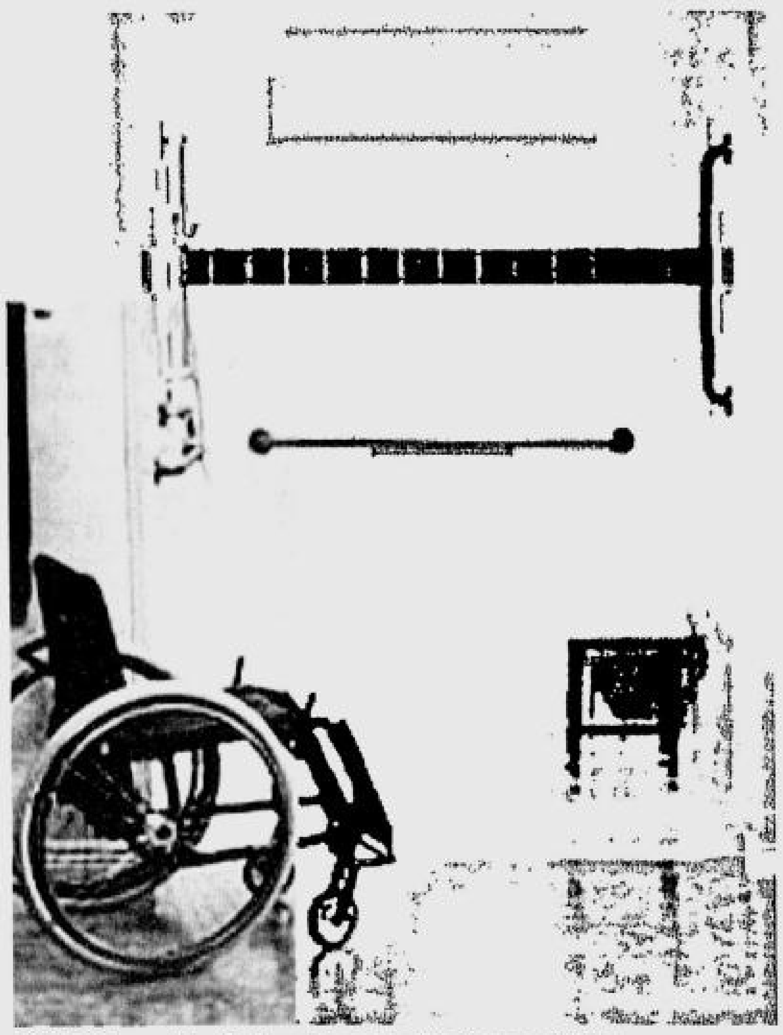
Naturally, rooms must be well ventilated, without being drafty, since older people are more susceptible to the cold. It is a good idea to allow sufficient sunlight in during the mellower daylight hours, not just to lend cheer to a room, but also to eradicate mustiness and damp. Lighting should be adequate at all times, including provision for night lights and emergency lights.

Toilet fixtures

It would be ideal to install special toilet fixtures for wheelchair-bound persons. However, if this is not possible, just make certain that bathroom floors are not slippery and that these are kept dry and clutter-free. A few well-placed bars and railings securely screwed on the walls may prove to be a big boon. A stable seat placed right in the bathing stall may likewise be helpful for the elderly. Check that the chair is wide enough to seat the person fully and does not tip over easily. In one retirement home for priests, the shower cubicles are narrower than usual, much like those in ship cabins. This would enable the bather to lean easily from side to side for support.

Over and above these considerations, don't forget that your elderly has his or her own interests too, which must be supported and encouraged. Allow some space for him or her to engage in hobbies or pastimes that will help challenge his/her mind and keep him/her active. It doesn't have to be a separate room, just a pleasant area that he can call his own. It could be an easy chair, a desk, or even a pocket garden! If there is ample space in the yard, you may want to set up some railings for their daily outdoor walk.

You don't have to spend too much to make your beloved elderly happy. In fact, any place filled with love and respect, where *lolo* and *lola* still feel like an important part of the family, can be the perfect place for them.



TOILETS must be designed for wheelchair accessibility.

FENCELESS, WIRELESS

Ideal living at Digital Sonera

MOM and daughter enjoy fast Internet connectivity, thanks to Wi-Fi technology at Sonera.

WIDE-OPEN SPACES, AN INTIMATE neighborhood, an exciting community are the elements that make Sonera, Ayala Southvale Village an enticing place to live in. At the recently held open house for this exclusive, top-end development, Ayala Land Premier gives future residents a look into the impressive and unique features that will further enhance the quality of living at this one-of-a-kind enclave.

Held at the Sonera sales pavilion, the open house, aptly titled "Digital Sonera: The Luxury of Freedom and Connectivity," focused on two remarkable features of the village: The high-tech security and the unmatched connectivity. After a thanksgiving Mass and a delicious luncheon, the guests were able to view a video presentation of the various security measures to be used in Sonera.

On another side of the venue, space was dedicated to laptops that allowed guests to wirelessly surf the Internet and even download music, videos and more. The kids and the young at heart had a grand time playing Sony Playstation 2 games as well.

Sonera is the latest residential development in the bustling Alabang Complex, and yet another prime example of a superb and exclusive property that boasts of careful masterplanning and quiet luxury. Occupying approximately 23 hectares of prime land, Sonera offers a truly green landscape with magnificent trees and lush foliage. This visual feast adds to the serene atmosphere in this cozy neighborhood, and the wide-open spaces complement the more intimately sized lots.

Truly safe haven

In Sonera, Ayala Land Premier brings the concept of a fenceless community to reality. Residents will experience the refreshing freedom brought by fenceless homes and wide-open spaces of the village. Yet the residents' security is never compromised at Sonera, as Ayala Land Premier provides the latest, state-of-the-art security features that will make this rising community truly a safe haven.

"We really want to give Sonera residents the experience of being able to move freely and enjoy their space," said Joseph Romero, Sonera's project development manager. "And by being on the cutting-edge of technology, we can provide that experience in a truly secure, fenceless community."

To achieve this, Ayala Land Premier has collaborated with Pacific Strategies and Assessments (PSA), a leading Asia-based security and business risk consultancy that provides business intelligence, investigations, public affairs, security, and crisis management services to multinational companies and government organizations across Asia.

Its associates have been responsible for providing security for US embassies in high-threat locations abroad including those in Iraq and Israel, as well as planning and implementing security strategies for large industrial complexes, diplomatic missions and residential communities in other Asian countries.

With its expertise, PSA has designed for Sonera a sophisticated security strategy that will provide an unparalleled level of protection for the village residents. "Although most of the communities here have gates and security guards, none of them have any top-end security technology," PSA executive director Tom Green noted. "So for Sonera, we have designed a security strategy that integrates high technology, management systems and trained security professionals who will truly provide a highly-efficient level of security."

Sonera has a 360-degree fence barrier system around the village that is equipped with high-tech surveillance systems and intrusion detection systems. The Village Access System or V-Pass monitors the passage of people in the village, and trained security guards screen everyone who comes in by checking the resident's electronic signature in their access pass. The system can also record exit and entry times, and can be electronically programmed to prevent vehicles from leaving the village.

Surveillance systems are also installed in all public spaces such as the parks and playgrounds. Each home can also be equipped with a "panic" button, with which residents can get immediate response for any emergency. All the information is culled and sent out even to the roaming security forces, who are immediately dispatched to the scene.

Residents can even choose to equip their home with a full suite of security features: Alarms, intrusion detection systems and more. "Even if they're on vacation, the residents will know that their home is safe," Green said. "The security alarms will immediately get back to the control center, and a very highly trained security force will immediately respond in a trained and measured manner to the home."

High level of connectivity

It is not only the security that has gone high-tech in Sonera, as Ayala Land Premier has taken the best of digital technology to provide residents with ultimate connectivity. Plans are in the works to create multiple Wi-Fi hotspots in the village, dispensing the need for messy Internet wire connections.

Said Romero: "Given the intimate scale of the subdivision, it was relatively manageable to plan another feature and execute it, that's why we thought of bringing Wi-Fi to Sonera." Here, one can surf the Net from many corners of this village, from one's yard, to the playground, and even the clubhouse. "We're sure the residents will appreciate having and enjoying this high level of connectivity," Romero added.

As an Ayala Land Premier development, Sonera will also certainly provide residents true value for their investment.

Sonera residents truly have the freedom to move and do as they please in this exciting community that has impressive features and amenities that ensure safety and security as well as enhance connectivity.

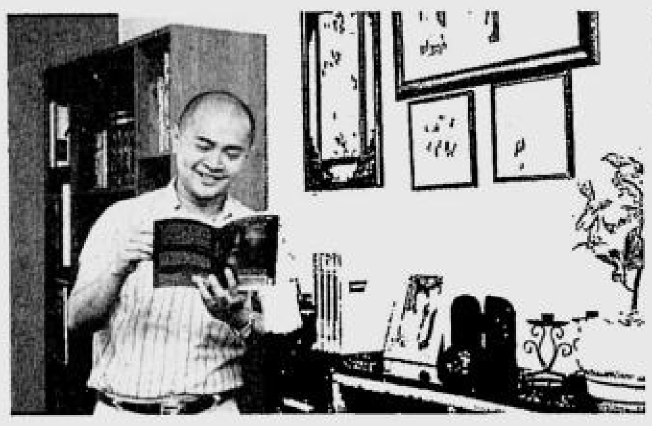
BOYS enjoy playing Sony Playstation 2 games.

Mini space gets maximum makeover

HE DIGS SCI-FI AND FANTASY books. She loves chic lit and magical realism.

He is a "Blue Eagle" and she, its direct rival, a "Green Archer." But ever since Alex and Kate Osias tied the knot, it has been a blissful blend of fun, love and laughter. So what more could they ask for? Nothing except a makeover for their mini space.

Their two-bedroom Makati condominium, a wedding gift from their parents, evokes warmth and intimacy. However, their cozy comfort zone has to be rearranged occasionally, especially when friends come over. That, plus their plan for a "growing" family were Alex's reasons for writing Real Living magazine for a makeover.



THANKS to Handyman, Alex Osias can now take time to enjoy his passion for reading in the comfort of his newly renovated home.

Space-saving solutions

Co-sponsored by Handyman Do It Best Home Center (Handyman), the makeover maximized a small space and gave useful space-saving solutions.

- **Fewer furnishings.** Whether you're living in a small space or downsizing, it's always ideal to have few—but preferably dramatic—things. Alex and Kate had little furniture all right: The sofa, chairs, glass top table and Kate's piano when they moved in, but they were hardly the best basics.
- **Multitasking.** The sala can be overused: "We watch our favorite TV shows, play board games and read books here," Alex says. It can also be a business hub one day and an entertainment center, the next. The solution?

Multifunction furniture and shelves like a tailor-made, layered centerpiece which can double as a coffee table or storage space. Handyman Woodshop at Robinsons Place Pioneer answers your need for customized furniture.

- **Mirror image.** Mirrors always give the impression of depth and width. That's why the large mirror at the center of the Osias' pad made the undersized living room seem more open and airy.
- **Inner spaces.** Every space counts, so storage solutions for small spaces can be a real challenge. The multiuse hutch or floor-to-ceiling shelf, for instance, is an ingenious way of storing curios while setting the boundary between the sala and the kitchen.
- **Wall wonder.** Light colors make a room look big. That's why Alex was apprehensive when designers broke that rule. But when the painting job was over, Alex was pleased to see the different kind of drama it created. The strikingly solid blue-green-sea green-aqua wall has also become a conversation piece.

WHETHER you're living in a small space or downsizing, it's always ideal to have few—but preferably dramatic—things

Impressed

Alex and Kate were impressed with the remarkable makeover and how Handyman helped with the woodwork that really fits.

"And the paints don't have that sharp smell and are quick dry so it's really good for small spaces like ours," the couple remarked.

Visit the fully automated paint centers at Handyman Do It Best Center in Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Robinsons Place Pioneer, which features WoodShop for your woodwork needs, and Handyman Do It Best Home Center branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, and Festival Mall. These service stations offer free computerized paint-mixing service for Do It Best Select Paints.

How does your wall 'behave'?

From page B2-1

of wall systems being set up in the Philippines.

Aitech accreditation

After the prefab walls are tested and found to have passed structural standards, manufacturers can then get their accreditation from the Accreditation of Innovative Technologies for Housing Committee (Aitech). Aitech is an interagency committee composed of 11 government agencies.

All prefab wall makers and developers who will avail of the government financing institutions and will be using innovative technologies or unconventional structural systems are required to undergo tests from Aitech's list of accredited agencies, said engineer Jovita Panopio, Aitech head of secretariat.

Panopio said FPRDI is recognized by Aitech, but it is just one of the several testing facilities Aitech has accredited. She added that, although FPRDI's testing facility can test large materials, it has its limitations. Big panels cannot fit into its testing equipment.

Compressive strengths

Panopio stressed that it would be critical for Aitech to know the compressive strengths of unconventional materials to assess their structural capacities. Thus, if a material requires a compressive strength of 3,000 psi and the actual strength of the material tested was found to be only 2,000, it's back to the drawing boards for the structural engineers.

Random monitoring would also be conducted to check if the plans submitted and the materials that passed during tests were the actual materials being used.

Engineer Rolan Rondero, chief of structural design and engineering section of FPRDI, said today's prefab walls are used primarily for partition purposes, which are nonload bearing. He added that this means that these walls are not to be used to carry "gravity"" loads or lateral loads (wind or earthquake loads). There are plans, he said, to make prefabricated structures carry not only their own weight but the structure as a whole.

"In the event that we see these walls capable of the two types of loads, structural designers would be able to design structures incorporating inherent strength of their wall systems," Rondero disclosed.

"Tests in the Philippines used to be small specimens representative of a structure. The trend has changed moving toward doing full-size tests," Rondero said.

FPRDI now requires a full-sized sample of a wall specimen, such as a plywood-size wall, for testing.

"The interplay of connectors/jointing accessories on the configuration, orientation, dimension and fixing methods of prefab wall system would be determined through simulated performance tests," said Dr. Dwight Eusebio, FPRDI housing technologies program coordinator.

Earthquake resistance

Two types of tests are conducted:

- The compressive test determines the axial capacity of the specimens. This test will show if the wall can carry loads or support the structures even in the absence of beams.
- The lateral resistance test shows the sheer capacity of walls. This test will also reveal the level of earthquake resistance of the specimens.

Load cell sensors monitor the weight applied to prefab walls, while linear variable displacement transducers record stresses. The two test parameters read the behavioral responses of the structures and displays these findings in a computer. Engineers can then easily detect weaknesses in the sample structure.

"We have performance models of each existing wall system. There are different types of prefab wall systems such as light-concrete, steel-frame walls, timber-frame wall, and heavy-concrete wall systems," Rondero said.

The testing program is still considered in its initial stages. The new testing system was bought from the United States. The testing facility was funded by the Philippine Council for Industry Energy Research and Development.

Love finds a home at Portofino

LOVE IS TRULY IN THE AIR AT Brittany Corp. At the core of this maverick real estate developer is more than just a passion for living but a deep commitment to life and all the joy it brings.

A reflection of this unwavering devotion is Amore of Portofino, an 11-hectare enclave that brings to life all the attributes of true love. If love had a home, Amore would undoubtedly be it.

"Amore is simply a love affair with the land," said Brittany president Jing Serrano. "It exemplifies what we have all along been articulating in all our developments in Portofino, that is, the romance and passion of Italian living. And since this is what Portofino is to us, it comes but naturally for us to progress to Amore—our latest expression of love and passion in a property development. As reflected in our track record, we have a knack for pushing the envelope further and Amore is another such example," Serrano enthused.

Unique exclusive enclave

Situated along the spine road connecting the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road to the San Pedro Exit in Laguna, Amore of Portofino is a unique exclusive enclave inspired by the rustic Tuscan region of Italy. It sits on prime, fertile, rolling terrain cradled by trees and can easily be accessed through three major road arteries. It is 10 minutes away from the central business district of Alabang and 35 minutes from Makati. Yet within its walls lies a paradise that truly speaks the language of love and passion.

The Amore gives those who have always wanted to live the romantic Portofino lifestyle a chance to own a piece of Portofino. One will be amazed to discover that the Italian features people love about Portofino are likewise captured in Amore, albeit with a touch of distinctiveness that gives one mixed feelings of familiarity and uniqueness.

Architectural details

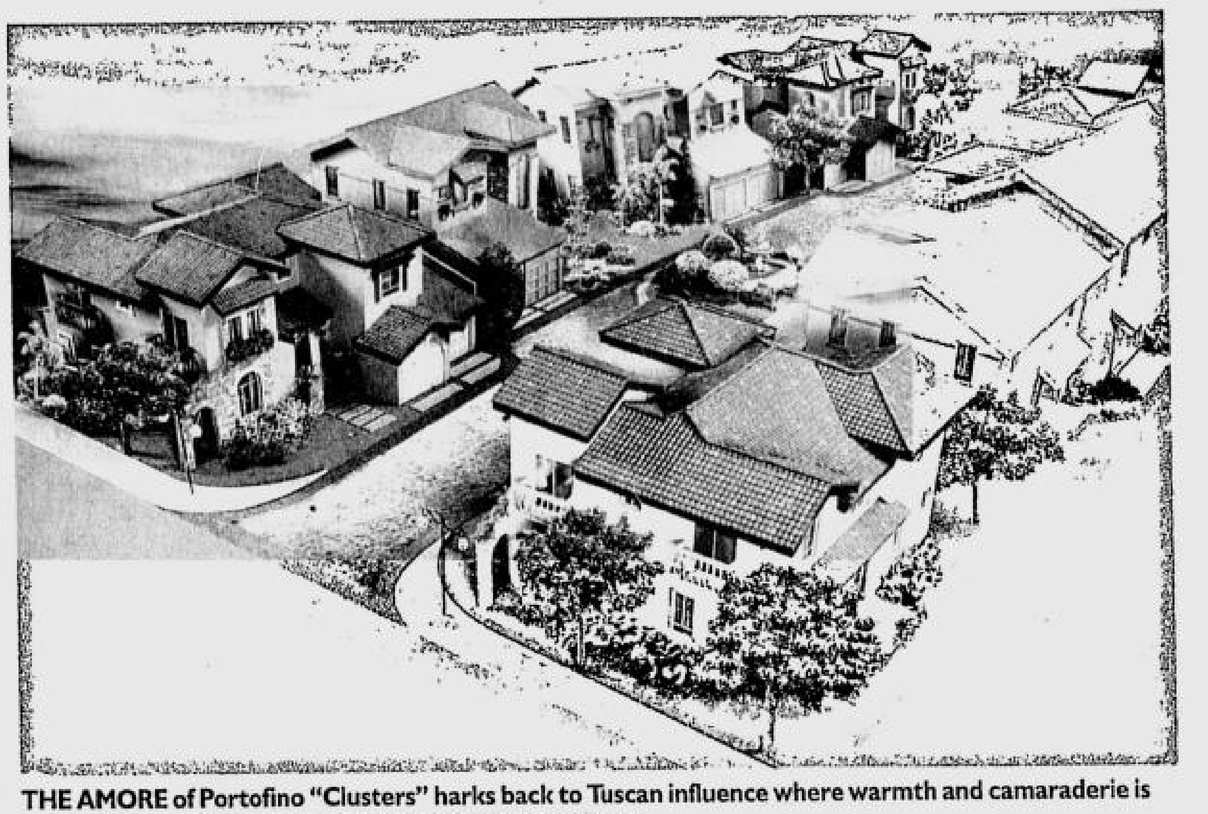
Inspired by Tuscany, the birthplace of Italian Renaissance, Amore incorporates many architectural details to recreate the romance of rustic Italy such as the cupolas and the courtyards that serve as trademarks of the entire Portofino development. The Amore's cupola, a tower on the roof that provides lighting and ventilation to the family area, is unique because it is squarish, while the cupolas in the Courtyards of Portofino are circular.

Another unique feature of Amore would be the clusters—an assemblage of four single-detached residential units with a common paved driveway and a landscaped pocket garden. The clusters offer further exclusivity in an enclave that is already extremely secure (although a part of the Portofino development and its security system, Amore also has its own perimeter fence for added protection).

Amore's five single-detached model homes and two Italian Duetto-inspired models offer a wide range of variety to accommodate the different preferences and requirements of buyers. Floor areas range from 139 sq m to 210 sq m and packages range from the mid P8.7 million to P13 million. The two Duetto models have floor areas of 165 sq m and 140 sq m with packages of P8 million and P7.4 million, respectively.

Smart homes concept

With Amore, Brittany introduced the smart homes concept. Smart closets have been installed to better maximize storage space along with a picture window, shower ledge, improved utility area, which can accommodate a washing and drying area for clothes, and a built-in garbage bin. Roof insulation is done to fend off some heat, especially during the summer months. This cooling feature is further reinforced with the installation of air vents. The interiors have also been enhanced to cater to the homeowners' special requirements. Sliding doors have been mounted for the house to open up to the garden.


THE AMORE of Portofino "Clusters" harks back to Tuscan influence where warmth and camaraderie is established among neighbors without sacrificing privacy.

Amore of Portofino also offers premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground. Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security aside from the 24-hour system that safeguards the entire community. Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round-the-clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day. Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

"Why Amore, I have been asked," Serrano said. "One look at the masterplan and the answer presents itself naturally. For anyone who has worked hard to build and keep a family together, the home we build for our kin is the highest expression of our love. That's Amore!"

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

Anvaya construction works progress at nature's pace

GARISH STREETLIGHTS MADE OF TALL cement posts and amber lighting will not have a place in Anvaya Cove, Ayala Land Premier's seaside leisure community in Morong, Bataan. Instead bollards or low traffic posts with more subtle lighting will illumine the path for evening strollers and drivers in this 320-hectare development.

The lighting scheme is not only in keeping with the Asian Tropical theme of Anvaya Cove, it is also one way of ensuring that the *pawikan* or giant turtles that breed in the area—and other animals—will continue to make the place their home, according to planning manager Manny Illana.

From masterplan down to the ongoing construction of its infrastructure and amenities, great care is being exerted by Anvaya Cove's developers to minimize actual impact on the natural surroundings. The recently completed landscaping and architecture in Anvaya's main entrance exemplifies the spirit governing the resort's development. Man-made elements clearly play a supporting role to the lush greenery and other natural elements.

Spine road

With Anvaya's first neighborhood, the Cliffside, ready for turnover to lot owners, the 3.2-kilometer spine road that stretches from the entrance to the beach area captures "the wisdom of a country road," notes Illana.

The spine road follows the lay of the land and skirts trees. It twists and turns revealing glimpses of the cove's waters and of the development—its various elevations, its ringside view of the bay—and at the witching hour, a view of a fabulous sunset.

"It definitely is not your usual spine road. It opens up the development to you little by little—not all at once to heighten the drama of the experience of place," he says.

The S-shaped spine road features an asphalt overlay over cement to give the path a countryside feel, while ensuring that the material used will endure. This road-building technique is the same technology used in the Tagaytay North Road and the Northern Luzon Expressway. Moreover, it will showcase lush landscaping on either side of the roadway.

The spine road leads to the Cliffside, now being primed for lot owners wishing to build their vacation homes. All utilities are in place for the first neighborhood which has 138 lots, majority of which have a commanding view of Anvaya Cove's rolling terrain.

Fenceless community

The second neighborhood, the Mango Grove, is currently undergoing utility works in preparation for a targeted second quarter of 2007 turnover. The Mango Grove has 98 lots. Also under construction are 12 Seaside Villas in front of the beach and Ilingin Bay. The Seaside Villas will be a fenceless landscaped community to heighten the sense of space of visitors to the area. To provide service to all guests, the Beach Bar and Grill is also being constructed and is expected to be completed before the yearend.

The one-hectare Lagoon, conceived to enhance the environment-friendliness of Anvaya, was also recently completed. Darwin Salipsip, department manager of Ayala Land's Construction Management Group, points out that the Lagoon is a focal point of the entire development. It serves as a backdrop to the Beach Club, Great Lawn and the Lagoon Suites which are overnight accommodations exclusively for club members.

Aside from being an amenity for boating and fishing, the Lagoon is expected to attract Philippine mallards, wild ducks that migrate to the area during the rainy season. Anvaya is rehabilitating a portion of the Lagoon so it can continue to serve as an attractive habitat for the ducks.

The Lagoon also acts as rainwater collector for the community and will provide irrigation to the landscaped areas of the beach club. It has two levels connected by a free fall water cascade which will likewise help cool the area on hot days.

In according nature the greatest respect, Anvaya Cove's developers hope the community will remain what it always has been—a nature sanctuary.

For more information call 728-7000 or visit www.anvayacove.com or www.ayalaland-premier.com.

ANVAYA Cove's recently completed main entrance exemplifies the spirit governing the resort's development.

Presidio at the heart of New Manila's grandeur

THE LOCALE OF QUEZON CITY CONtinues to experience a balanced emergence of residential communities, commercial facilities and business enterprises over the past two decades up to present, making it an ideal area to build a real estate property which will prove to be a veritable investment in the years ahead. CrownAsia, the country's biggest homebuilder, takes advantage of this residential opportunity by creating its second vertical address right in the heart of Quezon City—Crown Presidio New Manila.

Though surrounded by industrialization, New Manila still exudes a rustic ambiance as adjacent avenues remain lined with mature trees and mansions of prominent old Manila families top off the area's grandeur. The charm of the '50s is very much evident at New Manila while it is conveniently located near business and commercial centers.

Presidio New Manila spells high-style, high-rise living meant for urbanites who wish to benefit from the practicality of a vertical residence and desire a masterplanned, themed home. The 18-story high-rise condominium is a self-contained vertical community inspired by the distinct neo-Victorian architecture of San Francisco.

Units available

Career-driven individuals, young couples and beginning families alike will find a place to call their own from the array of units with versatile layouts available at Presidio New Manila:

- **Typical studio units.** Given the hectic schedule of individuals with steadfast careers, a residence of ingenious yet comfortable architecture that does not require tedious upkeep suits them. Each unit features a bedroom, toilet and bath, living and dining area, and kitchen.
- **Studio deluxe.** It has floor areas ranging from 24 to 40 square meters.
- **Studio premiere.** It has floor areas ranging from 41 to 60 sq m.
- **Special units.** As young couples and beginning families look into their growing needs, the special units at Presidio New Manila are a luxurious option for vertical living.
- **1-bedroom unit deluxe.** With floor areas ranging from 30 to 40 sq m, it features a bedroom, toilet and bath, dining and living areas, and kitchen.
- **2-bedroom combo unit.** With a minimum floor area of 31 sq m, this unit offers larger living spaces for its residents.
- **3-bedroom unit deluxe.** This is the most lavish choice among the units offered at Presidio New Manila with a minimum floor area of 60 sq m.

Lifestyle amenities

Aside from a wide selection of residential units, CrownAsia develops a thoroughly planned enclave by including lifestyle amenities such as an event plaza for various functions, a home theater for a unique movie experience and a game room to unwind or interact with neighbors. Presidio's theme inspiration also takes after the famed San Francisco Park by incorporating nature amid vertical living in the meditation gardens, sun deck, linear park, and family entertainment rooms located at the fifth floor.

Heightening the practicality of condo living and lessening the stress brought by busy schedules is the presence of commercial establishments at the ground floor of Presidio. A fitness gym, Internet café, daycare center and laundromat along with other businesses readily available. A three-level podium parking at Presidio New Manila is also available for residents.

Principal developments

The New Manila neighborhood on its own is already an ideal community to raise families yet being surrounded by principal developments in the area such as the Horseshoe Drive and Mariposa Loop completes the sense of exclusivity for Presidio residents.

Technically located on Main Avenue, Presidio New Manila is flanked by major lifestyle destinations such as Greenhills. The neighboring commercial and business areas of Quezon City are a few minutes away. The Bonny Serrano MRT station is a few blocks away. A quick U-turn on Edsa will take you to the Araneta Center, while a 10-minute drive will bring you to Eastwood and other malls in Ortigas.

Presidio New Manila presents vertical, city-centered living in a prime site in Quezon City.

Property previews may be arranged by calling CrownAsia at 634-9306, 634-9400 and 634-9001 to 02, or visit www.crownasia.com.ph on the Web.

A world-class construction and lifestyle show

SINCE ITS INITIAL LAUNCH 15 YEARS ago, through the efforts of the Philippine Constructors Association, Philconstruct established itself as one of the most dynamic building and construction events in the Asia-Pacific region. Today, it has become the longest running and the largest construction equipment, building materials and interior products exhibition and conference. Over the years, it has also served as a launching pad for new products and services to more than 2,000 suppliers from all over the world.

At this early stage, over 85 percent of the massive indoor and outdoor space of the World Trade Center Metro Manila has been booked by over 300 companies coming from 18 countries worldwide. The show which will run from Nov. 8 to 11 is expected to occupy over 18,000 square meters indoor/outdoor or over 550 booths led by its major sponsors—Boysen, Cemex, Davies, Holcim, Lafarge, Maxima and Monark.

Another record-breaking year

"With the country headed toward a very positive direction, Philconstruct is expected to have another record-breaking year. We are expecting group participation from Australia, China, Singapore, Taiwan, United States and the United Kingdom. The PCA is truly proud to be able to contribute so significantly to the growth and development of the local construction industry and to the improvement of the living standard in the country. This is a role we intent to lead in the years to come," said John Bautista, PCA first vice president and exhibit chair.

This four-day exhibit will feature the latest technological breakthroughs in structural and architectural components, landscaping products, interior finishing, appliances and fixtures for industrial, commercial and residential projects. Philconstruct '06 will feature Modern Home Expo '06, a comprehensive showcase of the latest and most advanced technology and products that can be used for homes, offices and buildings. There will also be a special section on Intelligent Building. Interested exhibitors and sponsors for Philconstruct '06 may contact our event manager, Global-Link Marketing & Management Services Inc. at (632) 750-8588/887-1304, fax (632) 750-8585/887-1305 or e-mail jing.lagandaon@globallinkph.com.

"Some of the highlights at Philconstruct this year will include a mockup of the Estilo de Vida Inter-School interior design competition finalists, business-to-business meeting with top contractors, architects and designers, technical seminars and product presentations, the launch of the new technology pavilion and many more surprises that will surely make the show impressive and unforgettable," PCA president Jorge Consunji added.

Philconstruct is the perfect yearly event for architects, contractors, designers, engineers and end-users to come together to update themselves with the latest products, technology and services available in the world market today. "There is no better way but to be one with those who contribute to nation building than to personally meet and rub elbows with the professionals and bigwigs of the top construction companies in the country," Bautista exclaimed.

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Antipolo City next target of home developers

By Charles E. Buban

ANTIPOLO CITY IN RIZAL Province is one of the few places in Metro Manila that has maintained a rustic ambiance and temperate weather (largely because of its higher elevation).

Just 29 kilometers east of Manila, the place is easily reached via Marcos Highway from Cubao, Quezon City, or Sumulong Highway in Marikina City.

With a total land area of over 300 square kilometers—representing 18 percent of the total land area of the province—the city is also fast becoming a favorite destination of home developers after Cavite, Laguna and Batangas.

"Antipolo City offers developers another excellent location and Robinsons Homes Inc. attests to this fact from the several developments it now has including Robinsons Homes East and its commercial arcade, San Jose Heights and San Jose Estates. The latest is San Lorenzo Homes, an affordable residential housing development," explained Marilu Alferez, RHI SVP and general manager.

The 2.8-hectare community is located in Sitio Hinapao in San Jose, which is just beside Robinsons Homes East.

Expansion

"San Lorenzo Homes is actually an expansion of Robinsons Homes East as RHI attempts to mix the type of residential units offered within the area. With San Lorenzo Homes, home buyers can avail of Mediterranean-style, two-story units (with combined floor area of 48 sq m)," Alferez said.

The 372 units (average lot cut is 40 sq m) are sold at an average price of P800,000.

Since the development is solely devoted to housing units, Alferez informed that residents of San Lorenzo Homes may access Robinson Homes East's amenities like the clubhouse and its swimming pool, tennis court, basketball court and children's playground.

"The development of San Lorenzo Homes is brought about by RHI's desire to help alleviate the current housing backlog in the country (estimated at 4.2 million units). By offering affordable units, we hope to attract start-up or middle-income families wanting to invest of their first homes," Alferez said.

Beyond providing shelter

Furthermore, Alferez explained that the development of San Lorenzo Homes is RHI's commitment that goes beyond providing shelter.

"Access to affordable and quality urban housing is an increasing problem as population pressure increases and land prices rise. With San Lorenzo Homes, we want to ensure that each community we build becomes a real haven that their residents can be proud of," she explained.

Alferez added that Antipolo City further boosts the value of their affordable housing development.

"The price of property in the city is relatively affordable plus families who may wish to settle here will get to enjoy the things that make Antipolo City famous: being the home of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage as well as other religious landmarks, Hinulugang Taktak Falls, excellent restaurants and bars as well as excellent hill and mountain views," Alferez said.

Affordable Avida townhouses address housing backlog

AFFORDABILITY AND THE ASSURANCE of adequate water and round-the-clock security are expected to drive the sales of the newest Avida Land community within commuting distance to Metro Manila.

Following a successful offering of house-and-lot units in 2004, Avida Village Santa Cecilia in Dasmariñas, Cavite, has launched a second phase offering townhouse units at lower prices. The townhouses named Terra Fresca are priced from P940,000 to P1.3 million.

Addressing the housing needs

The Terra Fresca units represent efforts of the wholly owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, Avida Land, to address the housing needs of the average Filipino family. Leo Montenegro, vice president and chief operating officer of Avida Land, explains the move to offer units below the P1 million range: "We are widening the market base for people who want to be part of the Avida family."

The Terra Fresca townhouses will be built by Avida Land in rows of eight. Each row combines end, inner and middle units. All townhouses are two stories high with two bedrooms each. With the unique combination of end, inner and middle units, the Terra Fresca units veer from the traditional rowhouses of other developers at no additional cost to the buyers.

WITH ITS unique combination of end, inner and middle units, the Terra Fresca units of Avida Land veer from the traditional rowhouses of other developers at no additional cost to the buyers.

The end units of the Terra Fresca townhouses will each have floor areas of 42 sq m, while lot sizes will range from 75 to 80 sq m. For both the inner and middle units, lot size is 50 sq m. Floor area is 44 sq m for the inner and from 44 to 60 sq m for the middle units. The Terra Fresca homes cost almost the same as a 20-sq-m studio condominium unit in the national capital region. The townhouse units come in bare, basic and standard finish with provisions for vehicle parking.

6 model units

Six model units of the Terra Fresca townhouses sporting a modern Asian theme are expected to be viewed by a huge base of potential clients whose demand for units below the P1 million mark remains underserved. The market includes overseas Filipino workers especially those based in Dubai showed strong interest in the project, notes officers of Avida Land.

Raquel Cruz, Avida Land's project development manager for Santa Cecilia, notes that in less than two years, 111 of the 232 units in Phase I has been taken up. Of that number 35 homes have been completed. One homeowner has moved in, while three others are set to transfer to their new houses within the month.

Amenities of Avida Village Sta. Cecilia are being built, with the multipurpose hall scheduled to be completed in early 2007 and the basketball court, children's playground and main park ready by October 2006.

Maximizing limited space

The end model Terra Fresca townhouse unit has been interior designed by Avida Land's in-house interior design to give home buyers an idea how to maximize limited space. The inner model unit was furnished by Abenson Home Plus Furniture. Both units are open to the public.

Terra Fresca recently unveiled the model unit for the middle series, which have provisions for a third floor loft.

For more information about Avida Land, please call 864-5744 or visit its website at www.avidaland.com.

CrossWinds on the Rise

Admiring nature's unparalleled beauty is still the most relaxing activity that one can pursue. It eases all worries and provides stimulation for creative solutions to many of life's challenges. It does not come as a surprise that urban-dwellers trek to Tagaytay every so often to clear the mind and receive nature's gift of inspiration.

Surrounded by such breath-taking landscapes, maverick real estate developer Brittany Corporation has found the means for its CrossWinds residents to better appreciate nature's masterpiece in Tagaytay. The Swiss-inspired property is literally on the rise with its Grand Quartier Tower I and II.

"CrossWinds has always been a very interesting property for Brittany Corporation to develop," said Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano. "We have a commitment to nature and have worked hard to guarantee that it is protected within our perimeter. Yet at the same time, we would also like to have more people enjoy nature's bounty."

"To resolve this challenge, we are now developing mid-rise structures that would open more units for those who wish to enjoy Tagaytay's breath-taking landscape, provide a unique vantage point to view this incredible sight, while ensuring that the structure's architecture blends well with the natural environment," she added.

Launched in 2005, the Grand Quartier Tower I recently had its groundbreaking to signal the start of construction. Offering a choice of studio units or one to three bedroom units, residents can enjoy the Swiss lifestyle that brings back memories of Christmas and the warmth of a family.

Studio units range from 39sqm to 46sqm while 1- to 3-bedroom units veryrange from 41sqm to 189sqm. The Grand Quartier Tower I also offers convertible units from studio to 1-bedroom units or 1-bedroom units to 2-bedroom units without additional cost. Packages range from P2.8million to P11.7million.

With the success of the first Tower, Brittany Corp. recently launched the Grand Quartier Tower II. These mid-rise Towers I and II offer residents the personal space that they value amidst the serenity of greens and the calming scent of pine trees. Here, one goes to sleep at night under a canopy of brightly shining stars - completely unobstructed by smog and other pollution - and awakens to the sweet scent of flowers mingling with the fresh aroma of pines trees.

Just like the rest of the CrossWinds property, The Grand Quartier I and II take inspiration from Swiss architecture. Elements such as overhanging eaves, wood patterns, wide balconies all set against a lush green landscape provide a haven where one can truly feel at home away from home.

Amenities at the CrossWinds also include peak gardens, swimming pool, gazebos, a view deck, nature trails, and shaded walkways. Other facilities and conveniences include high speed internet connection, underground cabling for power, communications, and CATV.

"Nature has always provided phenomenal inspiration for every possible challenge. At Brittany Corp., we have taken this to heart and CrossWinds serves as an exemplary illustration of how one can develop a property while respecting the environment," Serrano said.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.

The artist's rendition of the CrossWinds Grand Quartier Tower II as it sits majestically on top of the breath-taking landscapes of Tagaytay.

Consultant Architect Carmelo Casas of Recio + Casas Architects (far right) and some Grand Quartier unit owners are ready with their shovels to seal in the time capsule during the groundbreaking ceremonies for CrossWinds Grand Quartier Tower 1.

Rodel Racadio (in blue shirt), Vice President of Brittany Corp., leads the ceremonial laying in of the time capsule that contains the architectural plan of CrossWinds Grand Quartier Tower 1 during the recent groundbreaking ceremonies. Assisting him is consultant Architect Carmelo Casas of Recio + Casas Architects (right).

ADVT.

Super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Super! Countdown
3 days 'til Marlone's day

Stick it

Pinoy Oedipus in
Sarong Banggi
'Let's watch it!' page C4

Sticker Art
for street culture
'Get into it' page D1

Return of the Rave?
'Is it?' page C3

Super! special
Penshoppe
Denimlab Rockfest supplement Section E

Cover Stars: ANGELO ILAGAN and JACLYN JOSE, stars of 'SARONG BANGGI' now showing at all SM Digital Cinemas

"Business is up but our phone bills aren't.
It's a good thing Mark made us switch to Sun.
We save P50,000 every month!
My only challenge now is to stay under par."

- Lito Colona with son, Mark Colona
President/CEO, Eagle Express Group
Chairman, ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations

I was so happy when my son joined the Eagle Express Group. Since then, we've become a 1-2 punch. I use my years of experience in the freight forwarding business and he brings in new ideas. Especially when he switched our communications system over to Sun, which has improved our efficiency. We were so pleased with the service that now our offices in Davao, Zamboanga, Cebu, Cavite, Laguna and Pampanga use a system that connects all our trucks through Sun.

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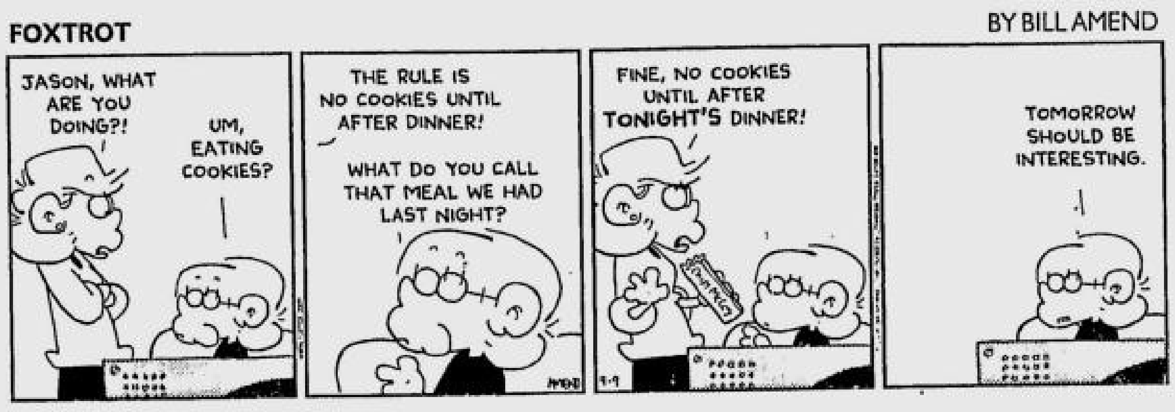
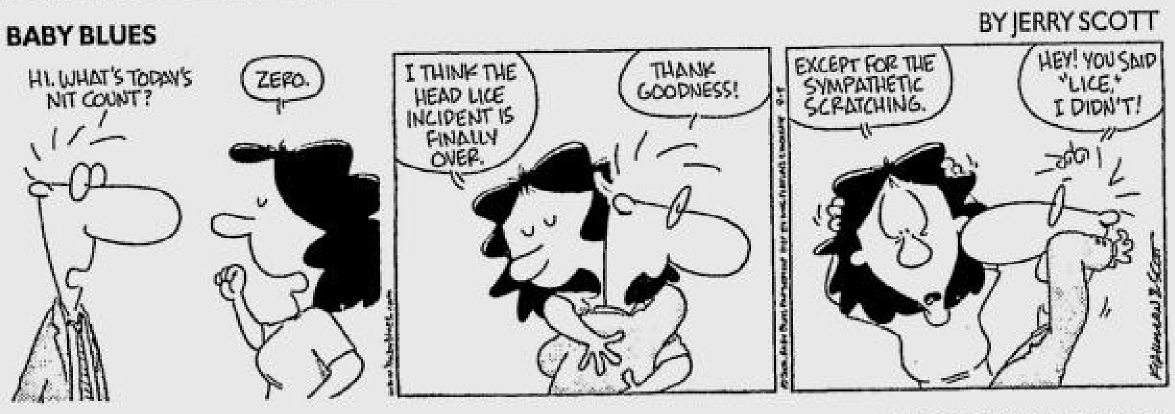
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
UM, EATING COOKIES?
THE RULE IS NO COOKIES UNTIL AFTER DINNER!
WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT MEAL WE HAD LAST NIGHT?
FINE, NO COOKIES UNTIL AFTER TONIGHT'S DINNER!
TOMORROW SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

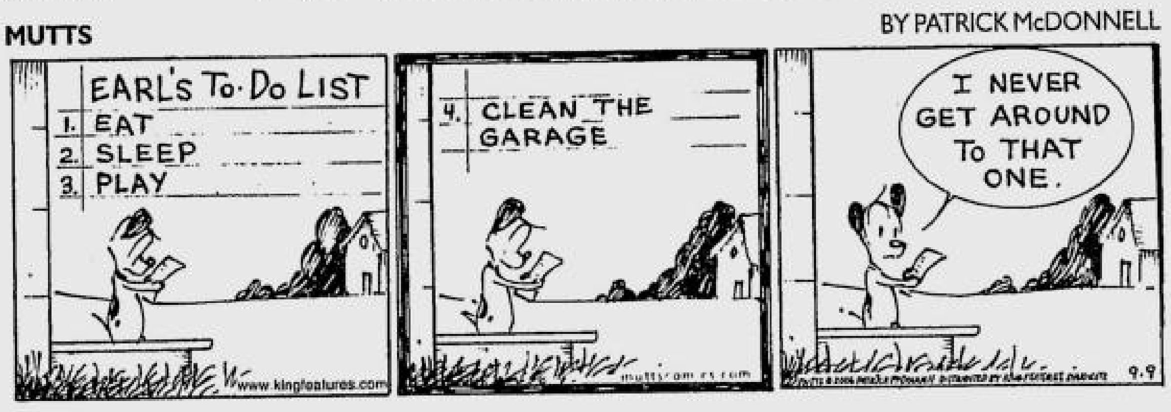
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI. WHAT'S TODAY'S NIT COUNT?
ZERO.
I THINK THE HEAD LICE INCIDENT IS FINALLY OVER.
THANK GOODNESS!
EXCEPT FOR THE SYMPATHETIC SCRATCHING.
HEY! YOU SAID "LICE." I DIDN'T!

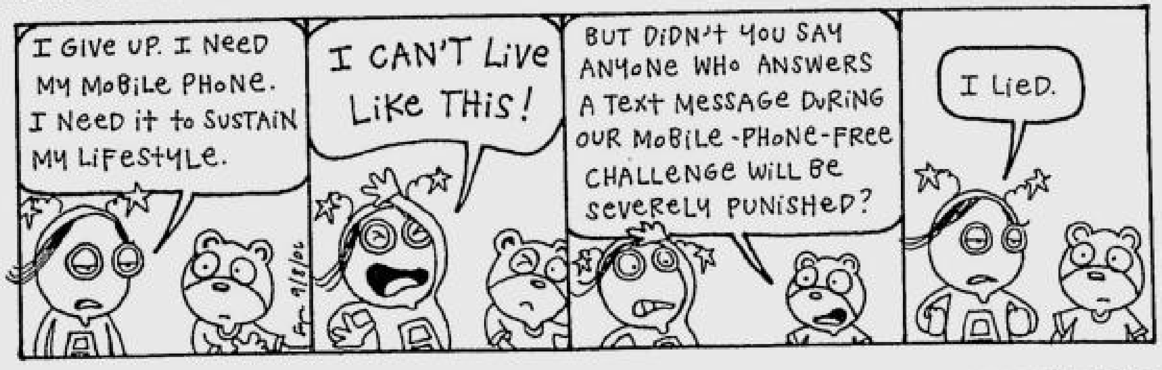
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL'S To-Do LIST
1. EAT
2. SLEEP
3. PLAY
4. CLEAN THE GARAGE
I NEVER GET AROUND TO THAT ONE.
www.kingfeatures.com

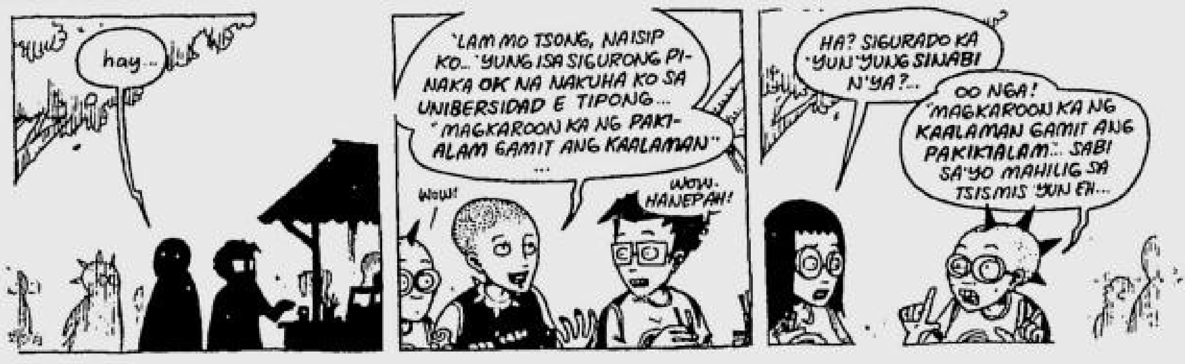
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I GIVE UP. I NEED MY MOBILE PHONE. I NEED IT TO SUSTAIN MY LIFESTYLE.
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS!
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYONE WHO ANSWERS A TEXT MESSAGE DURING OUR MOBILE-PHONE-FREE CHALLENGE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED?
I LIED.

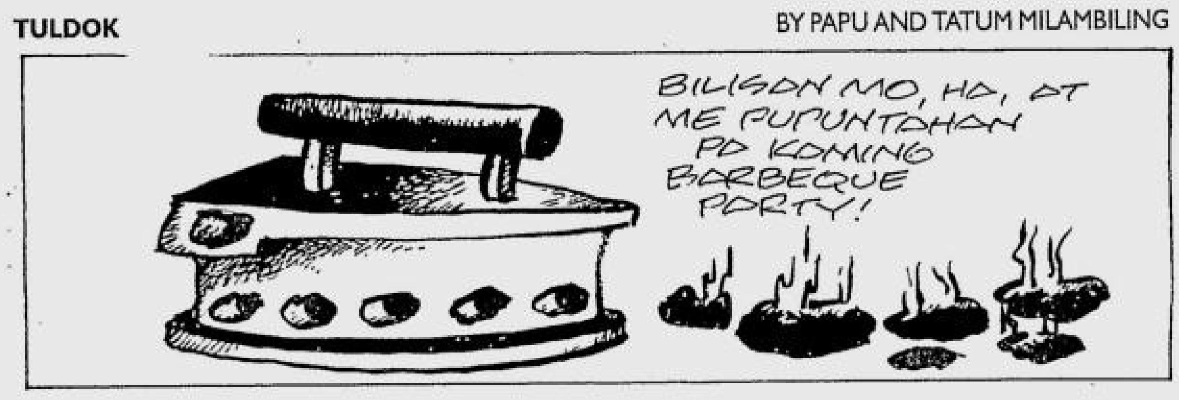
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hay...
'LAM MO TSONG, NAISIP KO... 'YUNG ISA SIGURONG PINAKA OK NA NAKUHA KO SA UNIBERSIDAD E TIPONG... "MAGKAROON KA NG PAKIALAM GAMIT ANG KAALAMAN" ...
WOW!
WOW. HANEPAH!
HA? SIGURADO KA 'YUN 'YUNG SINABI N'YA?..
OO NGA! "MAGKAROON KA NG KAALAMAN GAMIT ANG PAKIKIALAM"... SABI SA'YO MAHILIG SA TSISMIS 'YUN EH...

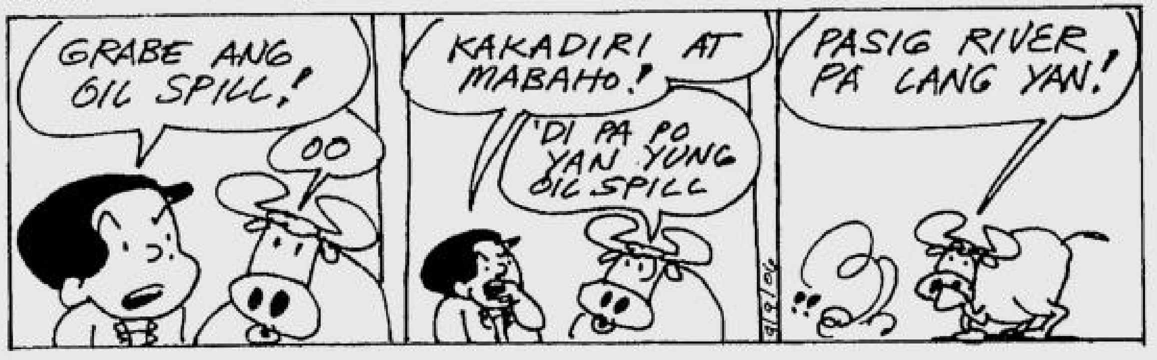
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BILISAN MO, HA, AT ME PUPUNTAHAN PA KAMING BARBEQUE PARTY!

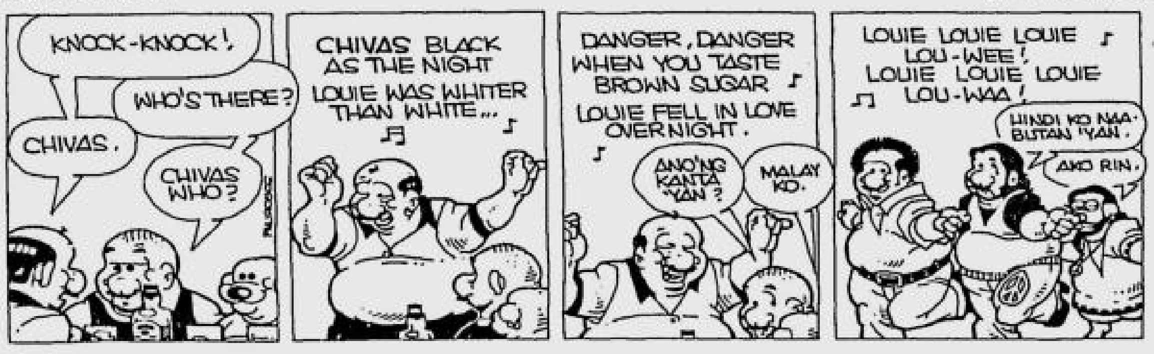
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE ANG OIL SPILL!
OO
KAKADIRI AT MABAHO!
'DI PA PO YAN YUNG OIL SPILL
PASIG RIVER PA LANG YAN!

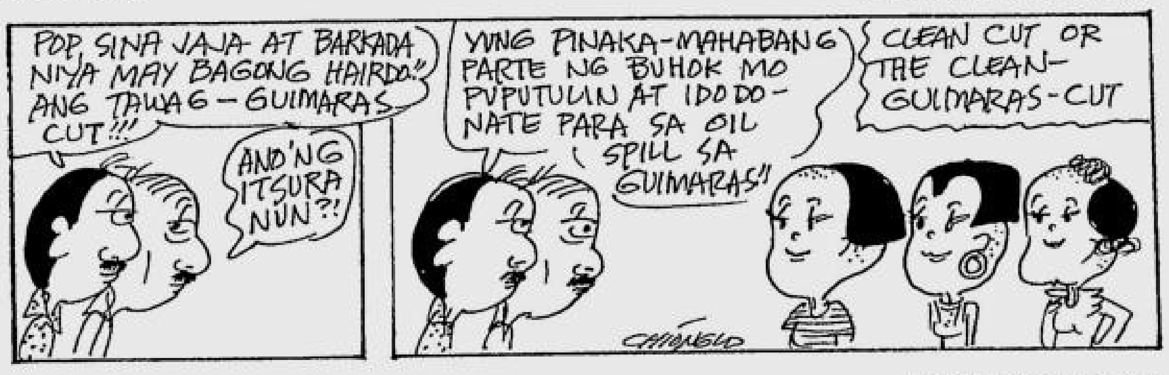
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KNOCK-KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?
CHIVAS.
CHIVAS WHO?
CHIVAS BLACK AS THE NIGHT LOUIE WAS WHITER THAN WHITE...
DANGER, DANGER WHEN YOU TASTE BROWN SUGAR LOUIE FELL IN LOVE OVERNIGHT.
ANO'NG KANTA 'YAN?
MALAY KO.
LOUIE LOUIE LOUIE LOU-WEE! LOUIE LOUIE LOUIE LOU-WAA!
HINDI KO NAABUTAN 'YAN.
AKO RIN.

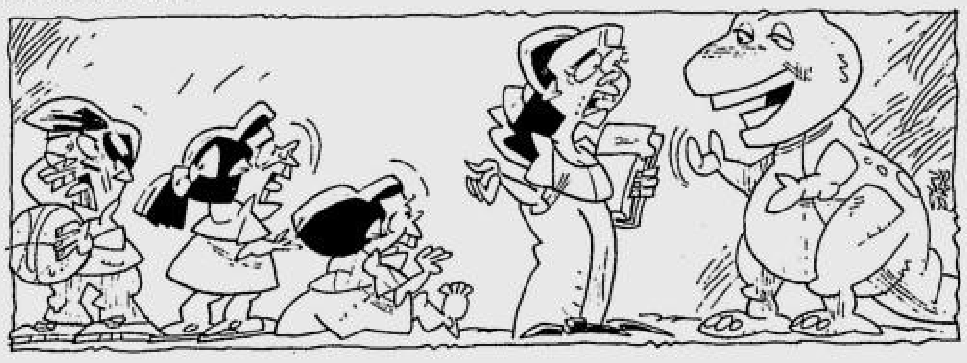
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, SINA JAJA AT BARKADA NIYA MAY BAGONG HAIRDO!! ANG TAWAG - GUIMARAS CUT!!!
ANO'NG ITSURA NUN?!
YUNG PINAKA-MAHABANG PARTE NG BUHOK MO PUPUTULIN AT IDODONATE PARA SA OIL SPILL SA GUIMARAS!!
CLEAN CUT OR THE CLEAN-GUIMARAS-CUT
CHIONGLO

DIVINE COMEDY

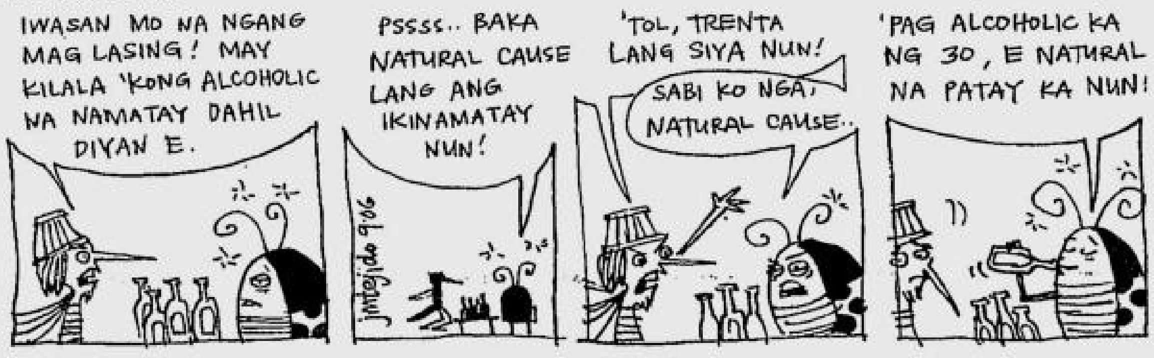
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HUMINGI NG TULONG ANG SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NA SI SALLY SA ISANG "CONSULTANT" NA MAY RAPPORT SA MGA BATA

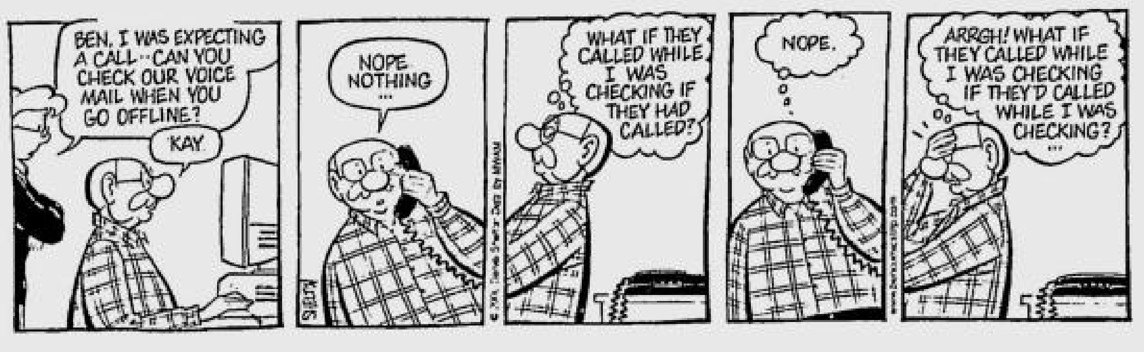
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

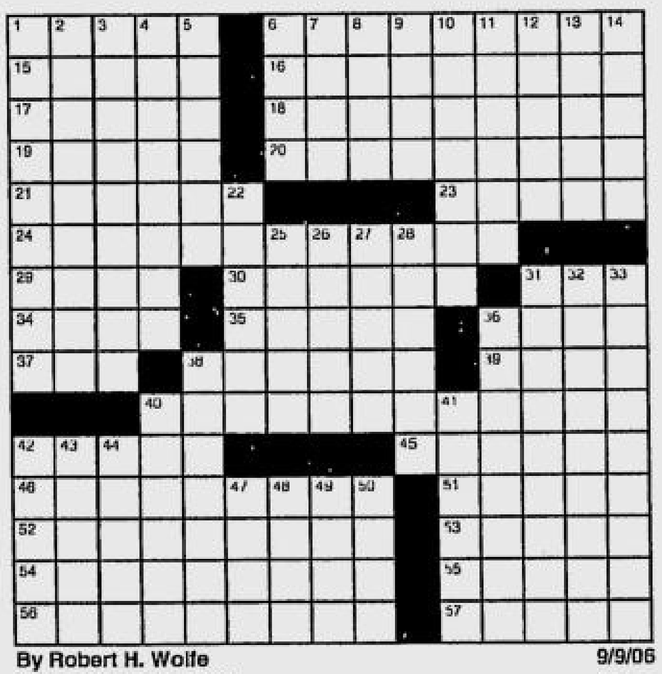

IWASAN MO NA NGANG MAG LASING! MAY KILALA 'KONG ALCOHOLIC NA NAMATAY DAHIL DIYAN E.
PSSSS.. BAKA NATURAL CAUSE LANG ANG IKINAMATAY NUN!
'TOL, TRENTA LANG SIYA NUN!
SABI KO NGA, NATURAL CAUSE..
'PAG ALCOHOLIC KA NG 30, E NATURAL NA PATAY KA NUN!
jintejido 9.06

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, I WAS EXPECTING A CALL... CAN YOU CHECK OUR VOICE MAIL WHEN YOU GO OFFLINE?
'KAY.
NOPE. NOTHING ...
WHAT IF THEY CALLED WHILE I WAS CHECKING IF THEY HAD CALLED?
NOPE.
ARRGH! WHAT IF THEY CALLED WHILE I WAS CHECKING IF THEY'D CALLED WHILE I WAS CHECKING? ...

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

9/9/06

ACROSS
- 1 Total number
- 6 Female rhymers
- 15 "Tomorrow" musical
- 16 Tail of an airplane
- 17 Supports for sails
- 18 Pluviometer
- 19 6-time U.S. Open tennis champion
- 20 Spotless
- 21 Laced up once again
- 23 Dazzlingly bright
- 24 Very valuable paintings
- 29 Drake or bull
- 30 Rugged mountain ridges
- 31 Army rcts.
- 34 Gets older
- 35 Greek island
- 36 Top-drawer
- 37 Buntline or Beatty
- 38 Surrounded by a wide ditch
- 39 Powerful trend
- 40 Of muscular response to nervous stimuli
- 42 One on the lam
- 45 Hot meal?
- 46 Egyptian flower?
- 51 Entrance flooring
- 52 Signed off on
- 53 Desktop graphics
- 54 Living a licentious lifestyle
- 55 V.P. John __ Garner
- 56 Future time
- 57 Feelings of merriment

DOWN
- 1 Reporter's co-worker
- 2 Generally speaking
- 3 Disturbed
- 4 Certain salts
- 5 Examiner
- 6 Lima's nation
- 7 Middle East kingdom
- 8 Church of Eng.
- 9 Temporary shelter
- 10 Books
- 11 Symbols of slowness
- 12 Alternative to steam
- 13 Ova lobber
- 14 Run-down
- 22 Pastor's assistant
- 25 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
- 26 Take care of
- 27 Downright
- 28 Find secondary corrections
- 31 Fly solo
- 32 Sloth
- 33 Clairvoyant women
- 36 Extremely minute
- 38 More full of good cheer
- 40 Get hot under the collar
- 41 Uniting in marriage
- 42 Ruffle
- 43 Form's first blank
- 44 Boot out
- 47 Fragrant ointment
- 48 Parts of pelvises
- 49 Season of fasting
- 50 Slight advantage

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	N	J	I		R	E	B	A		S	P	A	M
A	T	E	U	P		I	R	O	N		L	O	N	E
C	O	M	M	O	N	F	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	S
K	N	O	B		E	T	S		H	Y	D	R	A	S
			O	R	O			Z	O	N	E			
D	O	W	J	O	N	E	S	A	V	E	R	A	G	E
E	D	I	E	S		F	O	G	Y			L	O	P
L	I	L	T	S		F	U	R		S	C	I	F	I
I	S	M			H	O	N	E		H	A	V	O	C
S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	B	E	A	R	E	R	S
			E	A	S	T			A	W	L			
I	M	P	A	L	A		Y	D	S		J	A	M	B
F	O	R	T	Y	T	W	O	R	E	G	U	L	A	R
S	A	I	L		I	A	G	O		I	N	A	N	E
O	B	E	Y		T	R	A	P		A	G	N	E	W

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9/9/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have excellent planning skills and lots of self-discipline. You can be tough, but you're kind and generous to loved ones. You're hardworking and energized around others. Your compassion and idealism often lead to work that benefits society in some way. This next year could be one of the best years of your life. Open any door!

Birthdate of: Adam Sandler, actor; Michael Keaton, actor; Hugh Grant, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid disagreements with coworkers and daily contacts. You have a strong urge to prove that you're right about something. Is it really that important?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Emotional encounters with romantic interests might be a bit too intense today. Similarly, parents might overreact with children. Mellow out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Domestic disagreements are highly possible today. Therefore, be patient with loved ones and family members. Machinery and equipment can also break down today (especially in laundry and bathroom areas)..

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your determination to win an argument or make your point might simply alienate others. Think about your long-term objective. You know you attract more flies with honey than with vinegar.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Guard against a wild compulsion to buy something today. You might want this item very much, but you should also be aware of what you're doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're obsessed with a particular idea today. In fact, you're so preoccupied that it's all you can think about. You might also encounter somebody else who acts this way toward you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ability to ferret out secrets today is excellent. Any kind of research will yield solid results. You definitely want answers to your questions

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Resist the urge to force your point of view on friends or groups. You believe you're right, and you want others to agree with you. (There are none so deaf as those wearing headphones.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Avoid intense conversations with bosses, parents and VIPs. Each party wants the other to agree with him or her. (This is not the basis for a good dialogue.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good time to begin studying a subject that has hidden meanings, such as psychology, magic or astrology. You want to know the subtext of something. You want the bottom line.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day for any kind of research. You can also uncover secrets about shared property, other people's earnings or what other people own. (Might be interesting.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient with partners and loved ones today. Avoid arguments. Don't try to force your point of view on anyone. (And don't let anyone try to do this to you, either.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

5								1
		9	5		7			
					3		5	
	7	6		9			2	
				5				
	1			6		7	8	
	4		8					
			2		4	3		
3								6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/09

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	4	9	6	2	3	8	5	7
3	2	8	9	7	5	1	6	4
7	6	5	1	4	8	3	9	2
2	9	1	4	3	6	5	7	8
6	5	3	8	1	7	4	2	9
4	8	7	5	9	2	6	1	3
8	7	4	2	6	1	9	3	5
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

24/7

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Ravin' Mad

FROM THE MID-'90S UNTIL THE TURN of the millennium, the rave scene was in full swing. As the sun went down on a Saturday night, glowstick-totting crews of club kids would assemble at warehouse parties, worship the DJ at the deck, and dance till dawn.

The euphoric spirit of this adrenaline-fueled scene was perfectly captured in the 2000 indie film, "Groove," a cult classic that took a saccharine stab at the electronic underworld of San Francisco. A Sundance Film Festival favorite, the movie follows a cast of hipper-than-thou twentysomethings as they attempt to organize a rave at an abandoned Bay Area warehouse. In the final scenes, real-life DJs like John Digweed, WishFM and Polywog even make surprise cameos.

Obviously inspired by the movie (and perhaps a bit of '90s nostalgia), Soundsgood—the innovative group behind Embassy's "Lounge-O-Rama" Saturdays and M Café's "Rouge" Thursdays—brings you back to the underground scene with GROOVE, a bone-chilling warehouse party in the Pasig Ice Plant [182 Shaw Blvd. Extension, Pasig City] at 10 p.m. tonight.

To make things even more groovy, Soundsgood flies in San Francisco-based spinmeister Polywog (she was the DJ with the glittery dreadlocks in the film), one of the most eclectic turntablists in the West Coast. Expect the sonic mixtress to throw down a playful concoction of house, jungle and techno infused with everything from Billie Holiday to Van Halen. Call 890-5704 or email info@soundsrealgood.com. Tickets at P750.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 9, Saturday

Will Fredo's "Compound" screening at UP Cine Adarna; Gary V. at Rockwell Tent; Project Mayhem at Conspiracy; Simply Sitti at Music Museum; Monsterbot, Boy Elroy & Mayonnaise at Mag:net Café; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Chicosci, Sino Sikat?, Salindiwa, Narda, Chillitees, Sound, Color It Red, and Imago at Saguijo; Groove w/ DJ Polywog (San Francisco) at the Pasig Ice Plant; DJs Paolo Maralit and Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Bringin' Back the Bounce w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Mati; DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth-Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; House Groovin' at Mezze; Sleepless at Embassy Club; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; Soulistic w/ DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed; Timeless at Shang Streetscape; Rachel Ann Go: Live! at St. Thomas Square Manila

Sept. 10, Sunday

The Bloomfields at SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall; Godot at Wer Is U? at CCP Studio Theater; Healing Image: Jose Marasigan exhibit (curated by Juana Manahan) at Artistree Gallery, Shangri-La Plaza; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4

Sept. 11, Monday

Juan Pablo Dream, Pin-up Girls & Ciudad at Mag:net Café; World Music Night w/ Kadangyan, Syalam & Talahib at Conspiracy; Movie Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's ; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Sept. 12, Tuesday

Kjwan & Monkey Spank at Saguijo; Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Nuvo & Concertante at Conspiracy; Dongabay at Mag:net Café; DJs Crash & Patrick G. at Temple; Panic w/ DJ Alessandra Tinio at Zen; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Acoustic Jive at Merk's

Sept. 13, Wednesday

Unitel's "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" at local theaters; Urbandub at 70s Bistro; Chillitees, Mike's Apartment, Out of Body Special, Salindiwa & Whatevurittakes at Saguijo; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; DJ Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; The Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Stereo Therapy at Embassy VIP Room; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; Bliss w/ GP Reyes at Temple; DJ Brit at Government; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night w/ Mon David at Mag:net Café

Sept. 14, Thursday

SPIT at Mag:net Café; Bagetsafonik, Sleepyheads, Kompressor & Itchyworms at Saguijo; Brownman Revival at Conspiracy; RJ Jacinto at Captain's Bar; Coup w/ Manolet Dario at Fiamma; Rouge Thursdays w/ Soundsgood at M Café ; Reggae Night at 6Underground;Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; Thirsty Thirst-days at Bed; Ladies Night w/ DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Stella Ruiz & H20 band at Merk's

Sept. 15, Friday

Slumber Party w/ DJs Manolet Dario, Erwin Edralin & Marie Garcia at BED Space, Greenbelt 3; Electronica Manila Night at Conspiracy; DJs Marc Naval, Bombi Balquiedra & Jakey Yulo at Flamma; DJ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sunshine DJ Mon Maramba at Absinth; DJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzurro Linden Suites; Style at Citrus; Disco Mania at MDC Greenhills; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive w/ DJs Darrel & McDash at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Takeover w/ DJ Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Infinity at Shang Streetscape

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Oedipus is Pinoy, and he's indie at its prettiest

By Pepe Diokno

A FEW FILMS LEAVE YOU IN your seat as the credits roll—and I'm not talking about the ones with outtakes and stuff. See, there are few movies that suck you into its world so deeply that when the movie ends you're still in it, wanting more. "Sarong Banggi" is one of these movies.

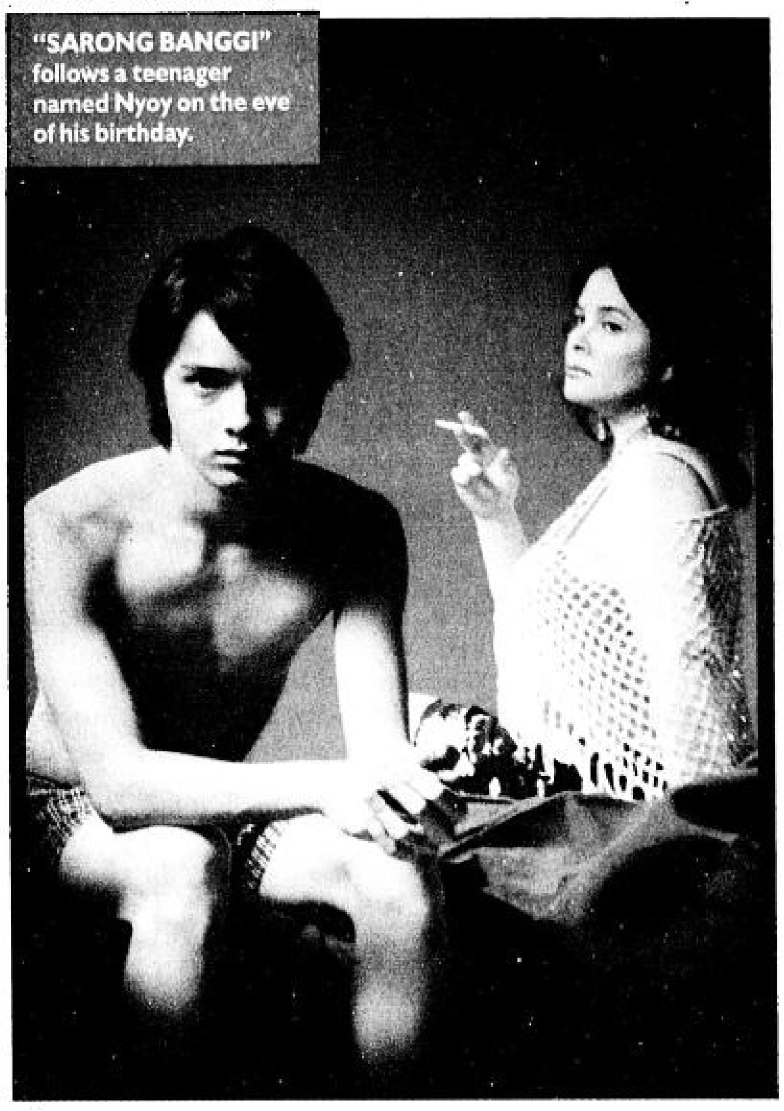
The movie was produced last year—it ran successfully at the 2005 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival. Now, I'll be honest. I did not go out and see "Sarong Banggi" last year. This is because, and I'll admit, I'm like many of you. I'll go out and see "Snakes on a Plane" cause the title sounds cool—but I don't get attracted to titles I don't understand. Anyway, I was lucky enough to get to see the film a few weeks ago, and man, I wish I saw it last year! There's a moral lesson for me (and you): Don't judge a film by its title. (Hooray for clichés!)

What to do with one night, an aging prostitute, and a teenage boy?

So first, let me tell you what "Sarong Banggi" means. It's "One Night" in Bicolano. This title comes from a classic Bicolano song. In English, the song's lyrics read:

One evening as in bed I lay / I heard a plaintive song of bird that spurns the light of day / At first I thought it was a dream / But soon I knew it was no dream for it was you.

And then still half asleep from my warm cozy bed I did rise, / And tried the darkness deep to pierce with my straining eyes, / Then I looked around I chanced my eyes to raise, / And saw in glorious radiance your lovely face.


"SARONG BANGGI" follows a teenager named Nyoy on the eve of his birthday.

An audio-visual poem

The film approximates the song in many ways. First, the story happens in one night—and it's about two people meeting. Second, and more importantly, the film captures the rhythm of the song. It's a lyrical movie—it's an audio-visual poem.

"Sarong Banggi" follows a teenager named Nyoy on the eve of his birthday. To celebrate—or initiate him—whatever, his friends take him out to Manila to score. Their "contact" is a prostitute past her prime, named Melba. They realize this and bolt, but Nyoy somehow drifts back to her. He then spends the rest of the night with Melba, and discovers the world of sex, and a world he didn't know he was a part of.

It would've been easy to exploit this story and make it into a cookie-cutter Seiko Films production. However, writer-director Emman de la Cruz handles this material with such care, that it becomes something unique. Yes, the film is paced slowly. No, there are no guns in this movie. Yes, there is sex. No, the sex is not "Y Tu Mama Tambien"-like. The film is beautiful for what it has and lacks.

"SARONG BANGGI" means "One Night" in Bicolano.

Sarong Banggi
MELBA is played wonderfully, of course, by Jacklyn Jose. She won this year's Urian Best Actress prize for her performance in this film.

I heart MNL

The film's slow pace allows you to see Manila in a different light. In "Sarong Banggi," Manila becomes so beautiful—it's almost like New York. The setting actually becomes part of the reason you don't want to leave the world of the film. Manila, as captured through Miguel V. Fabie's caring, loving eyes, is a symbol of life and home, and at the same time a symbol of isolation. That is cinematography—it isn't merely making things look good, it's conveying a message through visuals.

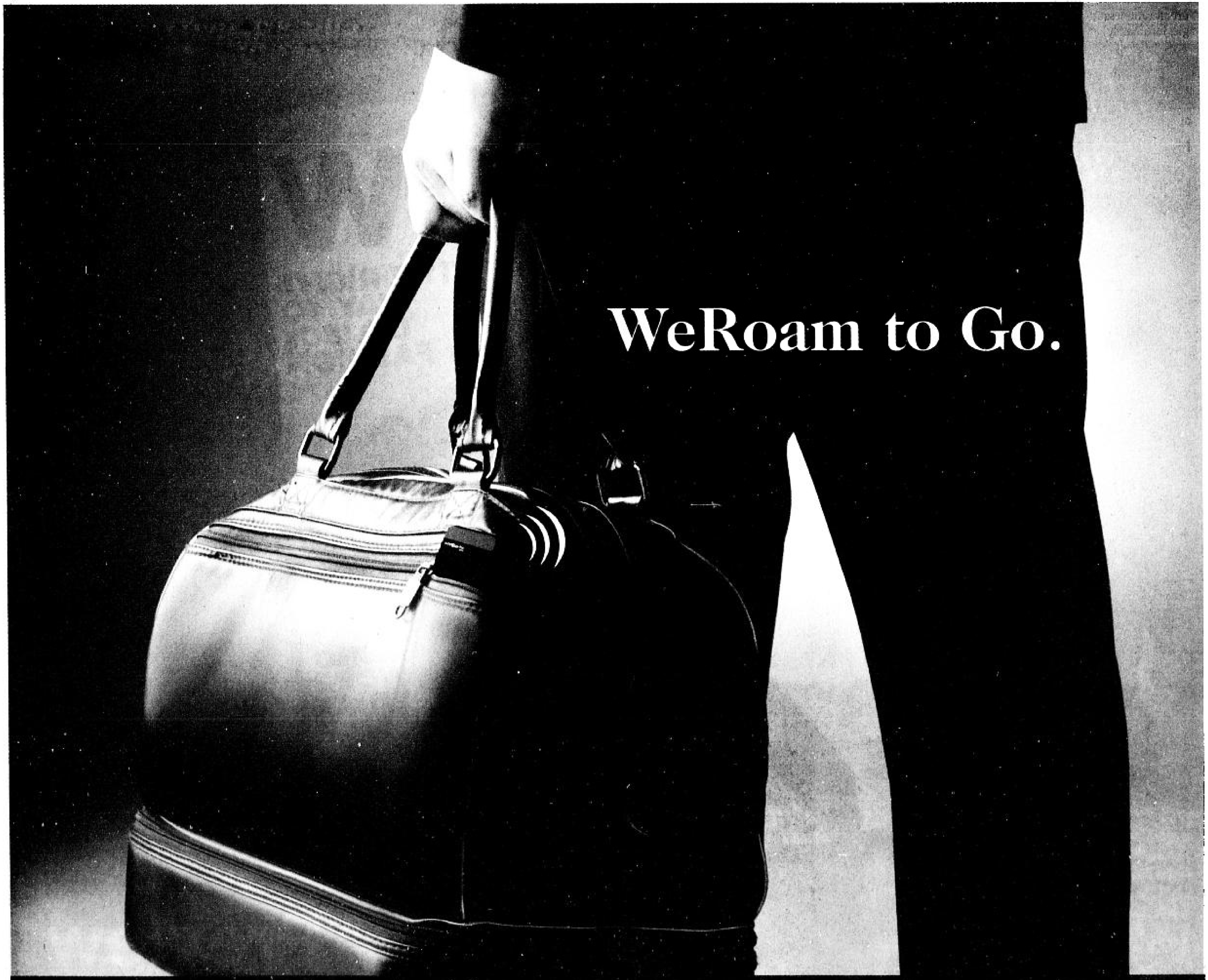
The slow pace also allows you to take in beautifully written characters. The audience gets to sit down with Melba, and see through her exterior. We also get to spend time with Nyoy, and explore his vulnerabilities. We probably don't know people like Melba, or Nyoy, but we identify with them because we are given peeks into their souls.

Emman's Melba is played wonderfully, of course, by Jacklyn Jose. She won this year's Urian Best Actress prize for her performance in this film. There are movies when you can tell an actress becomes her role. A step higher than that is when an actress is able to develop her role. This happens when she is able to take simple cues in a script to create an arc for her character—Melba talks the same way at the start and end of the film, but Jacklyn Jose as Melba is a different woman at the end.

Again, there are no guns, no snakes, and the sex isn't shown. But the film is great for what it has and what it doesn't—restraint is something Filipino films need and "Sarong Banggi" has the right amount of it. It may not be for those of you who want every movie you see to be over-the-top. But then again, it's about time you be open to different sides of cinema. There's so much you can do with film other than make Toni Gonzaga and Sam Milby meet.

"Sarong Banggi" is both entertaining and unique. It's worth your ticket money. Super says go see it!

"Sarong Banggi" opens on Sept. 6.



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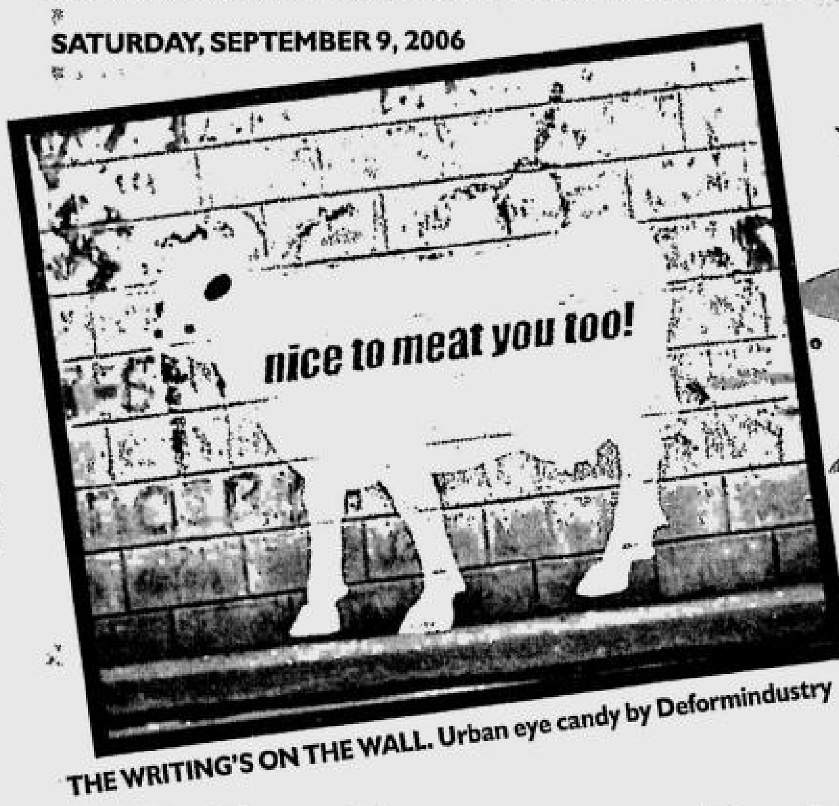

THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL. Urban eye candy by Deformindustry

Manila's young sticker art activists reflect our ever-evolving street culture

STREET PLAN
STREET ART MANILA EXPO
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GLOBAL GRAFFITI. Over 30 urban art activists from around the world will feature their stickers, posters and paintings at Street Plan: Street Art Manila Expo at Store for All Seasons

GETTING GRAPHIC. A street art collabo with stickers by MutatioNation, Boy Agimat, t*bin, Master Blaster, Bomb The Base, def.industry, Emokid, Sheeps Ahoy! and Larong Pinoy

This is a stick up!

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

TO THE UNTRAINED, the humorless, and the slightly jaded, stickers are best left to 9-year-olds and grown-ups who still live in a hologram of their childhood. But for those who bother to give a scrutinizing glance, the hand-drawn imagery of stickers—plus the act of collecting, swapping, and tacking them—is definitely not child's play. If you're visually aware, those brightly-colored badges can also reflect the trends of an ever-evolving street culture.

My own eye candy binge began early on when, as a pre-schooler, I started stockpiling Tony the Tiger stickers buried somewhere in a box of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes and/or stuff that came free with McDonald's Happy Meals. As my fascination with cartoons grew, so did my appetite for any and all related ephemera: The Transformers, Super Mario Brothers, and almost every character Disney invented.

But since my appreciation for stickers has become more cool and urban (and less kiddie and nostalgic, fortunately), I find myself harvesting decals that mirror my overriding obsessions: Music, traveling, snowboarding. I barely use them to tag anything though; I prefer to keep those symbols, fonts, and images hidden and all my own.

Meet the street

However, there are young hotshots who want to reveal the wealth of these well-executed graphic ideas to the rest of the planet. In "The Art of Rebellion: The World of Street Art," author Christian Hundertmark writes that urban art is all about leaving one's mark while integrating it with the environment.

Featuring street art activists from Sydney to Zurich, the book shows that taggers are not vandals but artists with creative doppelgangers and their own unique sensibilities. As Hundertmark states, "Only the initiated know to whom these pseudonyms belong."

In Manila, we also have similar sticker advocates, most of whom are taking part in a first-of-its-kind expo that opens today. Super! brainstormed with three of them, who go by the monikers Boy Agimat, MutatioNation, and Deformindustry, to discuss this impending Pinoy visual assault.

Arsenal of techniques

Why stickers? Are you also into other forms of art?

Boy Agimat: I wanted to have an alter ego when I created art. I was trained in advertising but I didn't pursue a career in that field. I liked the idea of generating awareness and curiosity using the sticker/poster medium like in advertising but without it being a corporate or commercial thing. I am also a freelance illustrator and multimedia artist who has shown his work in galleries and museums. When it comes to my sticker art, however, the streets become my gallery.

MutatioNation: I want to promote my own artwork and design through the streets. After I graduated from college with a Fine Arts degree, I totally got fed up with art, forgot about my skills, and just focused on my work as an art director. But earlier this year, I decided to get back to doodling, painting, and sketching.

Deformindustry: Seeing the sticker as a vehicle to share things in my mind made me do more public art after my first poster project. Stickers are easy to make. You can make some in your spare time.

How would you describe your stickers?

Boy Agimat: I got the idea from a talisman they sell in Quiapo, a very Pinoy pop icon. They say this triangular eye amulet or third eye gives you superhuman strength and allows you to see supernatural phenomenon when worn or used. When I did the design and started to stick them around, some of my friends thought it was a cult symbol or something.

MutatioNation: Well, my stickers have kinda anthropomorphic creatures on them. I have fun mixing animal and human characteristics.

Deformindustry: My stickers are more like markers I intend to put up in public spaces.

How do you produce them?

Boy Agimat: I do it manually using a marker on paper then photocopying it in black and white on sticker paper. I try to make it simple so people can easily recognize the image. Now I also draw stuff directly on the sticker paper.

MutatioNation: I scan my drawings, color them, then print on sticker paper. *O ha!*

Deformindustry: Photocopy technology.

Motivations and collaborations

Where do you get your inspiration? Any dream projects?

Boy Agimat: I get my inspiration from ordinary objects, everyday situations, and books. I'd like

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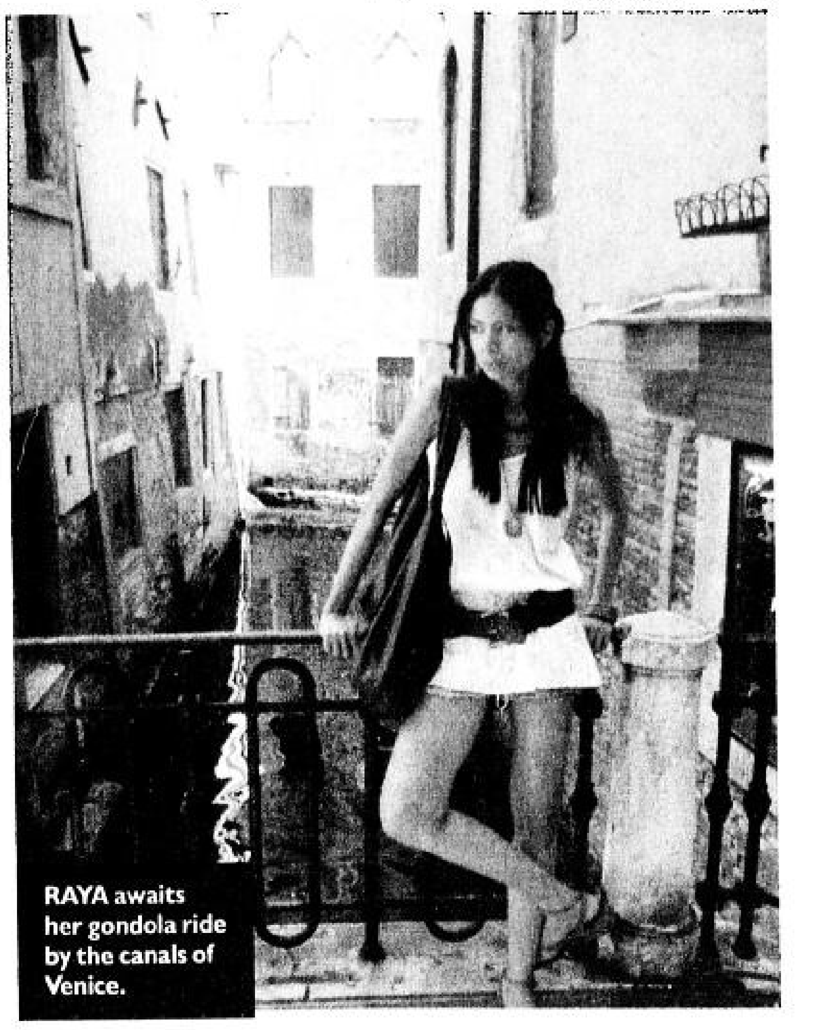
The FAMOUS 14 on their latest voyage to the East Mediterranean. From L-R: Robby Mananquil, Valerie de los Santos, Bryan Lim, Jojo Liamzon, Rissa Samson, Ben Chan, Miguel Pastor, Keren Pascual, Evelyn Uy, Corey Wills, Raya Mananquil



RAYA awaits her gondola ride by the canals of Venice.

CORFU, MALTA AND VENICE:

Veni, Vidi, Vici!

Beyond the runway

Raya Mananquil

WHEN FAMOUS PR GURU Keren Pascual told me that we were going on a cruise along the East Mediterranean, I bade goodbye to rainy Manila and hello to sunny Europe in Greece, Malta and Italy via Star Cruises' Superstar Libra!

The experience of sailing to different countries changes your perspective about traveling. Instead of flying thousands of miles above land seated next to a crying baby and sleeping on a reclined chair, traveling on a cruise ship was like living in a floating hotel. Half the fun of the whole trip was doing all sorts of activities on the ship while at sea. Here's a list of some of the things you can do on the ship:

1. **Yoga.** Naturally. Corey and I were happy to teach Keren Pascual, Patrick and Evelyn Uy, Bryan Lim, Robby Mananquil, Rissa Samson and Valerie de los Santos how to find their inner peace amidst the crashing waters.

2. **Eating.** Even the vegetarians would be happy to feast—from curried lentils and tofu burgers to vegetable burritos—we savored every bite both during the poolside barbeques buffets and their exquisite fine dining restaurants.

3. **Sunbaking, err, sunbathing.** With the sun blazing in the Hellenic sky, there is no reason to sit in the shade and not soak up some precious Vitamin D. Be prepared to be called a bronzed god or goddess when you get back home. As for me? Pass me the SPF 50 and a big hat please.

4. **Try a little table tennis.** Up for a little more physical challenge after that yoga stretch? Try your hand at ping-pong. You don't have to have such a mean backhand and no need for a fancy getup although you can always look the part.

5. **Dance Fever!** A hot Latin Salsa class was open and we were very game to try to this sultry dance. The dizzying steps, twirls and dips bathed us in a glow that made the dance all the more appealing!

6. **Cardio Kickboxing.** Instead of morning, this was done in the afternoon, around 4 p.m., when the sun wasn't too hot and the timing was just right. All of us had a hilarious time trying to keep up with everyone.

7. **Basketball.** Just wondering what happens when you keep getting all those foul calls—do you get thrown overboard?

8. **Golf-putting.** Practice your swings with views of the amazing sunsets on the deck. There are golf clubs on hand if you didn't bring your own set but so sorry, you can't throw them when you have a lousy game.

9. **Water, water everywhere.** Even when you're sailing in the Ionian sea, you can still opt to take a dip in the ship's fresh and cool swimming pools. I opted for a spin in the hot tub instead.

10. **Mmm-massage.** After working up all that sweat, nothing beats a good massage at the ship's spa facilities. Being smoothed down with therapeutic oils and scents was an out-of-the-world experience.

10 souvenirs to take home

What's a trip without souvenirs? Even if you profess to be the stingiest person in the world, I don't think you'll be able to resist even buying or grabbing one memento of your journey—even if it's just the free coaster that came with your cappuccino.

1. **Rosaries and other religious items.** While you can buy a lot of religious items such as medallions, prayer books, rosaries, etc. from practically everywhere in Rome, there's nothing like buying an official souvenir from the tourist shops in Vatican City. Give your devotee friends a rosary or two and you can claim that the Pope himself has given them the stamp of approval and genuineness.

2. **Friendship bands.** These bands are the summer rage in Messina and practically on the wrist of every Italian we met. The twist is that a friend has to give you the friendship band himself, with each band has a primary color which symbolizes different virtues such as honesty, loyalty, passion, etc. A very different take on the usual friendship rings.

3. **Murano glass.** Be prepared to empty your pockets if you're dying to have a piece of this exquisite glasswork that is bought by the rich and famous all over the world in Venice, Italy. If you can't afford the chandelier, then go for the glass beads or the Murano glass candy that comes close to the real thing, wrappers included.

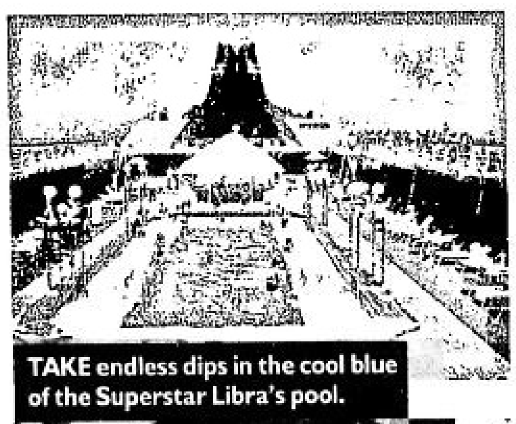
4. **Olive Oil Products.** Who says olive oil is just for cooking? Keren discovered olive oil-based tanning oil in Corfu, Greece that he absolutely loved. Because Greece is olive land, they can just do anything with olive oil.

5. **Maltese Cross.** This is considered the national symbol of Malta and is displayed prominently in most churches, being identified as the symbol of the Christian warrior. The eight points of the four V-shaped arms are said to symbolize virtues such as piety, loyalty, braveness, glory and honor, helpfulness and respect for the Church. You can find replicas of these in most of the shops in Valletta.

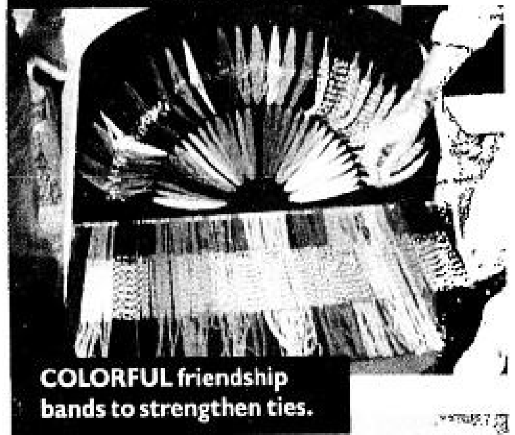
6. **Venetian masks.** Next to the gondolas, these masks also represent Venice. In olden times, according to our guide, these beautiful masks were worn by just about everybody for the festivities which lasted as long as six months, ending just before Holy Week (or Fat Tuesday). I saw just about every color and design imaginable—with feathers, gold-plated, with beads and crystals—and each one is a work of art.

7. **Gondolier hats.** When in Rome, do as

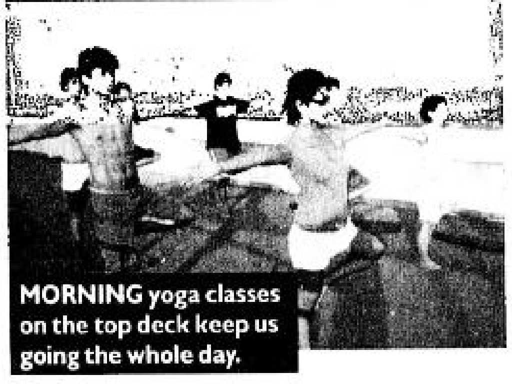
VENI/ D4



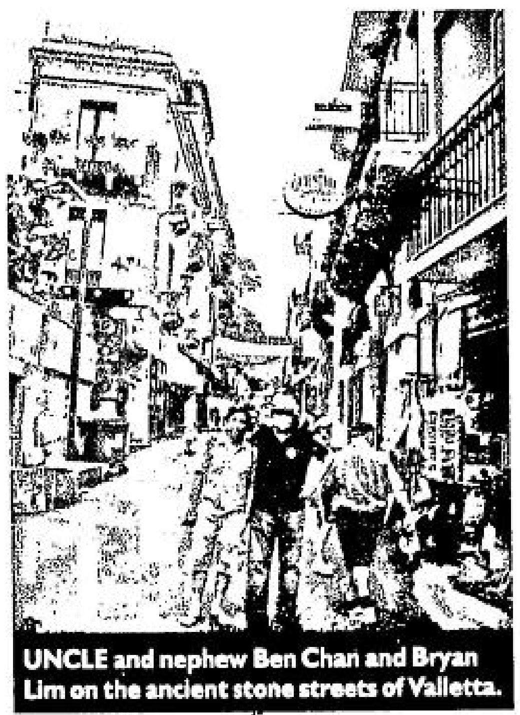
TAKE endless dips in the cool blue of the Superstar Libra's pool.



COLORFUL friendship bands to strengthen ties.



MORNING yoga classes on the top deck keep us going the whole day.



UNCLE and nephew Ben Chan and Bryan Lim on the ancient stone streets of Valletta.

HAVE iPod, will sunbathe.

A GELATO a day makes for la dolce vita in Rome.

THE BOYS of Bench. From L-R: Ben Chan, Miguel Pastor, Bryan Lim, Keren Pascual and Corey Wills

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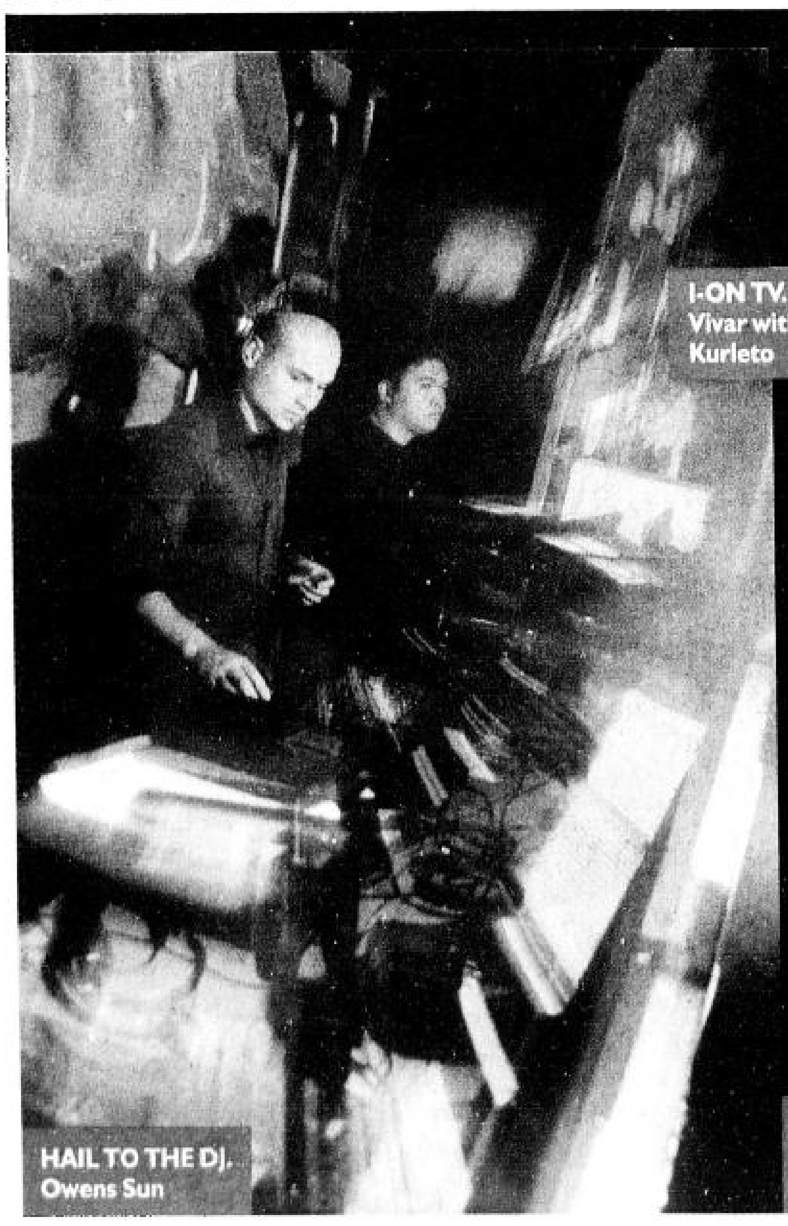
Party from AM to PM

By David Milan

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT life's a big party. I-On energy drink believes that you should always start your day in full party mode—from the time you open your eyes! I-On recently launched its D2N party (Day to Night, that is)—a celebration of a lifestyle that stretches 24/7! The event started early morning with performances by Body Jam, I-On rockstar, Hip Hop and Retro Groove. It lasted till the afternoon—with Escola Brasiliera de Capoeira Philippines and I Am Super People's Choice Awardee Planet Zips adding extra energy to the event. The night event was held at Embassy Super Club as Jenni Epperson, Robby Carmona and Rhett Eala played DJs, spinning hot, hot, hot tunes the whole evening.



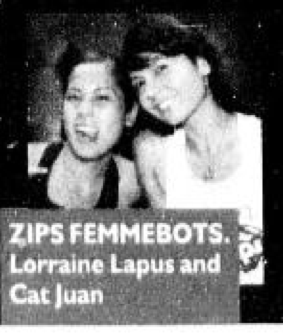
HAIL TO THE DJ. Owens Sun

I-ON TV. JUN Vivar with Cindy Kurleto

PARTY OF FOUR. Jojo Gaviola with Richie Santos, Alessandra Tinio and Rovilson Fernandez

ZIP IT like you own it!

FASHIONISTA AKO. Robby Carmona, Rhett Eala and Jenni Epperson



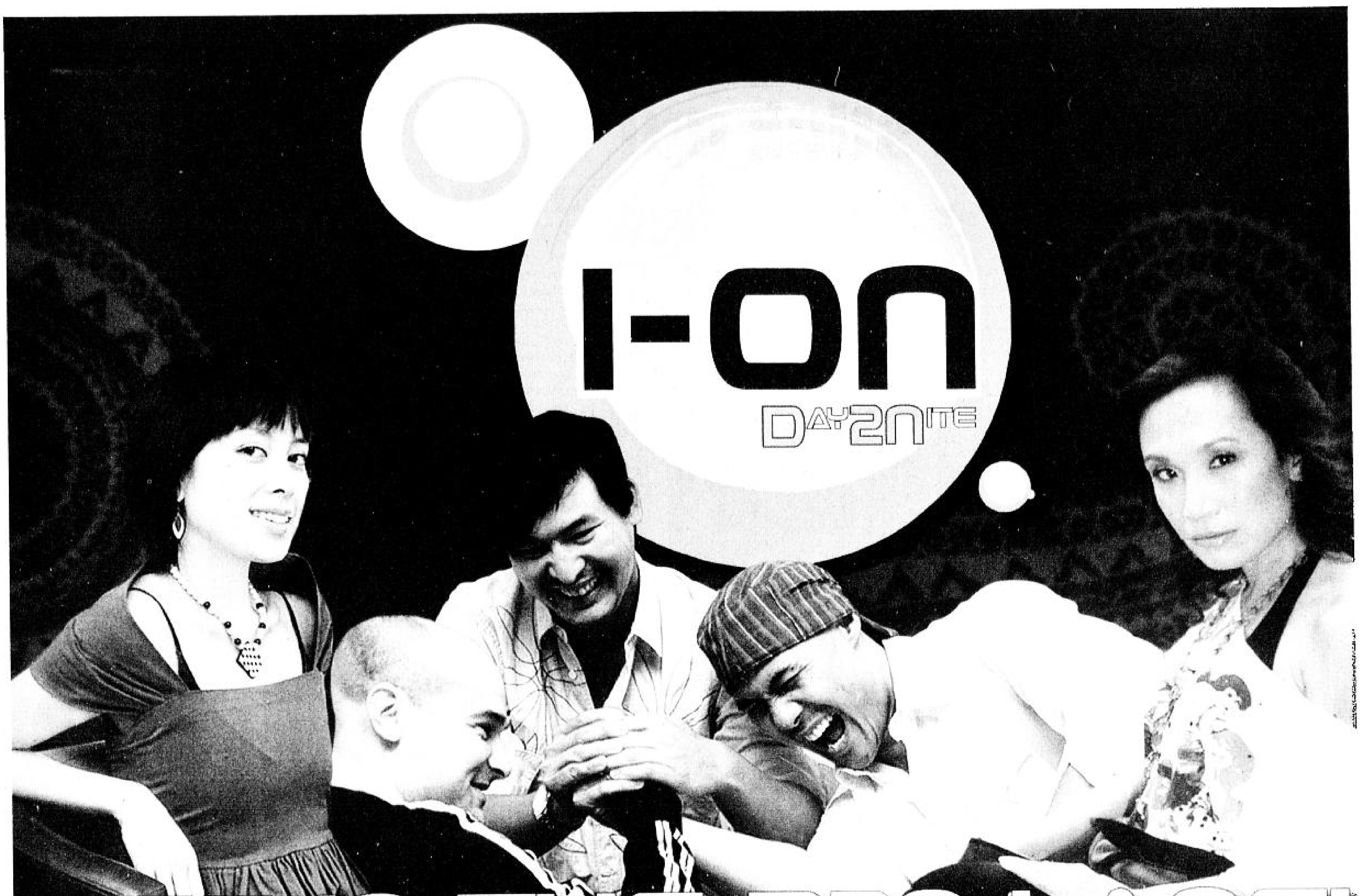
ZIPS FEMMEBOTS. Lorraine Lapus and Cat Juan

ETC DUO. Sam Oh with Jonathan Sibulo

MANNEQUIN MADNESS. Tabata Luczay and Vince Canizares

PARTY ACCESSORY. Happy and Miguel David

CAPOEIRA grooves



LIFE IN THE D2N LANE!

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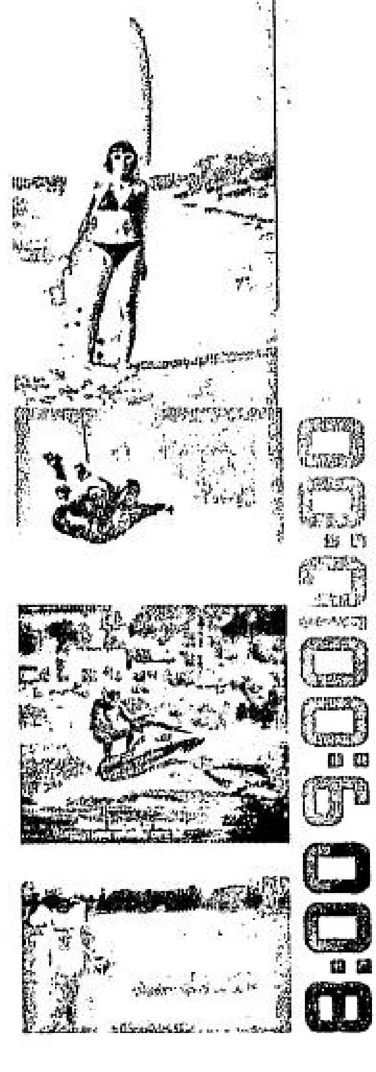


2:00 3:00 4:00 5:00 6:00 7:00
8:00 9:00 10:00

There are those who want and demand more. They are the ones who won't sit still and watch life from the sidelines. Whether it's work or play, they are constantly on the beat. From day to night, the movers of our generation lead what they call a "D2N lifestyle." Always on the move, they're not ones to be caught unawares of the opportunities that present themselves at any given time. They are the I-ON Generation.

Alessandra Tinio is both rock chic and a rock n' roll chick. Voted one of the most stylish young women in the country today, she keeps her own sense of style – one that takes as much cue from punk bands like The Clash as haute couture. The Marketing and Communications Manager of Philosophy and Mikaela Salons and Holistic Center, she's at the office at 9 a.m. but that doesn't stop her from rocking out with her hot new band The Dorques around the best clubs at night. "Once a day I get my energy slump around 4pm," says Alessandra. Not to let anything "kill her evening", she takes I-ON to make sure that she delivers on stage as much as in the office.

Hotshot retailer Richie Santos never settles for anything less than being the best. A world-class Jet Ski champion, he's since retired to a more genteel sport like golf. Of course, the fact that he recently bested 700 other serious golfers at a local tournament proves that he hasn't lost his edge. His biggest passion now though is retailing – which he does as Vice-President for Cinderella. "When I hear "D2N", it reminds me of my lifestyle," he says, "Day to night, I am always on the go." Always aiming to be the best, he also chooses I-ON more than other brands. "It's the best I have ever tasted," says this seasoned veteran of competitive sports.

Sports-minded as well is MAXIM executive editor Rovilson Fernandez. Coming first to public attention via sports-variety program Gameplan, Rovilson has successfully made the transition from being an on-camera talent to just basically being somebody who calls the shots. In his opinion, I-ON has, "taken all the elements that have made the other drinks successful and improved on them." Still a frequent visitor to the gym despite his packed schedule, he points out that I-ON is for the more health-conscious consumer – which of course, does not lessen its effect. "Its effects are felt immediately after consuming."

Describing herself as a "mother of 4, a boss, a manager, a friend, a host, and a party queen", Christine San Diego has no doubt she has a day to night or D2N lifestyle. The manager of popular hangout and watering hole Absinth, she nonetheless keeps busy during the day. Aside from handling other establishments in Makati and Juice bar in Boracay, she also owns a real-estate company that keeps her working at all times day and night. On I-ON, this nightlife expert says, "It gives you a quick happy buzz…a great energy booster that is neither too strong or too weak."

DJ Owens Sun knows the importance of keeping that energy. Every weekend at Embassy, his job is to make sure that no matter what people will be moving on that dance-floor. As a money-broker, it's his turn to dance and he knows he can't miss a beat. He takes I-ON regularly for both work and play. "But mostly when I'm mixing," he says. A gym addict, he agrees with Rovilson and says, "that it's better for your body unlike other brands."

If they're not putting in those hours at the office, those who live the D2N lifestyle are as much concerned about their well being as they are about making everything they pursue a success. With their cultivated high standards and taste, they choose I-ON for its great flavor as well as the extra jolt that keeps them on the cutting edge. Hitting the gym, the dance floor or the rock clubs, the I-ON Generation is defined by a vibrant and sparkling personality. They devote as much time and effort they use in making a living into living their life. With the help of I-ON, there's no slowing them down.

This is a stick up!

From page D1

to collaborate with MMDA (doing MMDA art) and with different Pinoy street artists. My dream is that street art will be recognized not just in the underground scene.

MutatioNation: From everything, what I see everyday. It's just free-flowing. I admire the works of Shepard Fairey and Bansky and all Pinoy street artists who use the public space as their canvas. I'd really like to collaborate not just with sticker artists but with those who do murals, posters, and graffiti. My dream project is to team up with the government, just like what they hired graffiti artists to make large scale artworks in Athens, Greece.

Deformindustry: Inspiration is everywhere. I respect those who have done public art and are still dong it despite its ephemeral nature. It would be great to do more public art projects and hopefully some videos, too.

What made you join your sticker art collective? How did you find out about it?

Boy Agimat: All the people I know who do this kind of stuff are into design, illustration, etc. There was a time when we didn't even know that some of us were doing the same thing. *Parang nagkataon lang. Ang dami na pala namin,* underground *nga lang.* Then through Deviant Art, an online community of artists a la Friendster, *nagkita-kita ang Pinoy stickereros!*

MutatioNation: We just met up and boom! We decided to form a group and influence others. So here we are, Pilipinas Street Artists. It's like a reunion even if we don't know each other aside from the respective works we see in the streets.

The street plan

What do you hope to achieve with your group exhibit?

Boy Agimat: We want to unite all street artists who have the same passion and to create awareness about this kind of art in the Philippines.

MutatioNation: I want others to be active in street art even when the exhibit is over, and I'm also hoping for a second street art expo!

Deformindustry: We hope to celebrate and share street art for the public to enjoy.

How do you see the future of sticker art in the country?

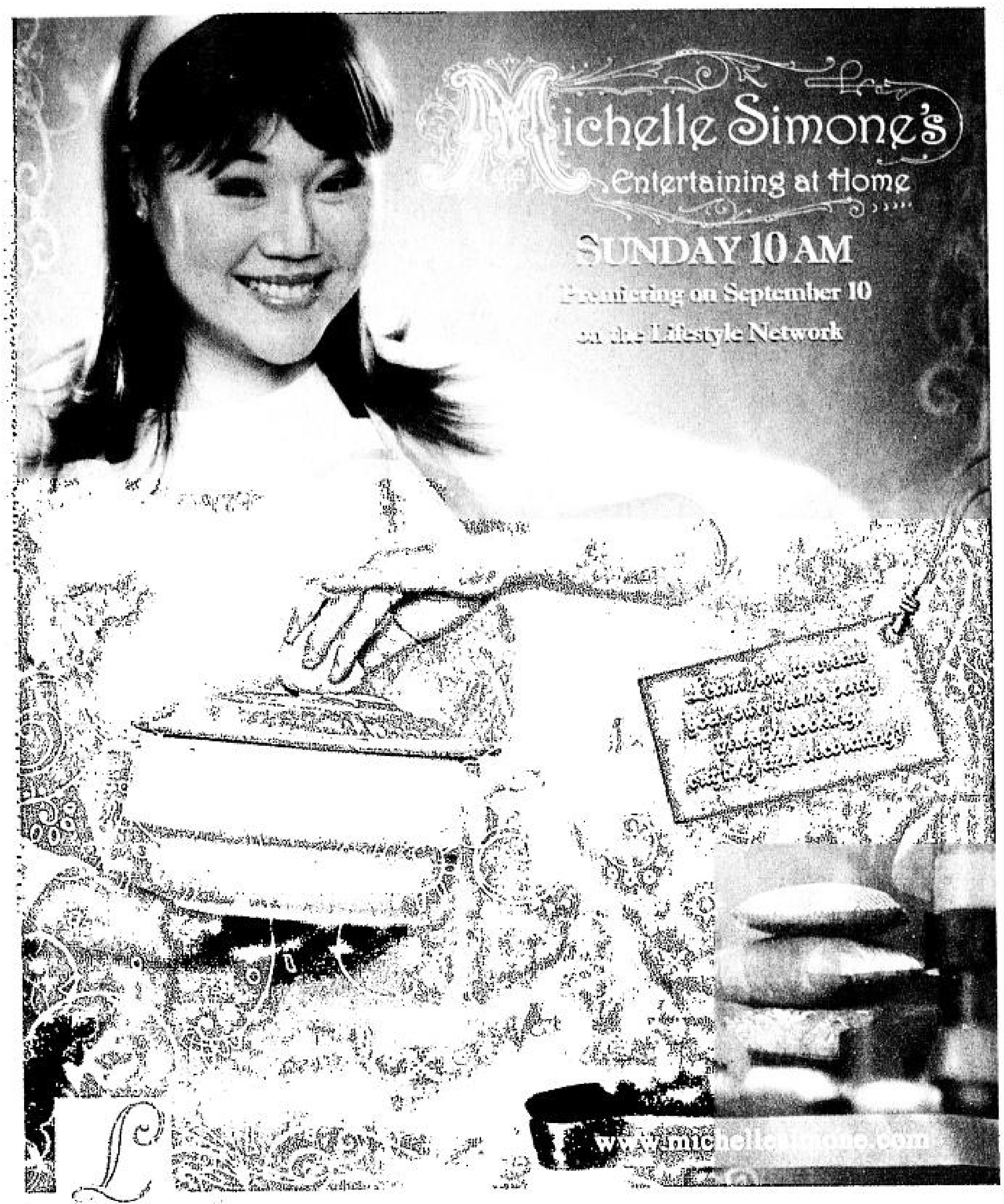
Boy Agimat: It will be very sticky as long as there are voices or ideas to be heard and seen. It's time to pay attention to ordinary people, not just to the stickers and posters of mayors and senators competing for our votes.

MutatioNation: Sticky, sticky! But seriously, I hope we can influence more artists to get into this kind of art or at least encourage them to try new forms of street art.

Deformindustry: It's been such a surprise to see how many are doing street art today as compared to three years ago. Stickers are fun to make and can be a tool for communication. Expect the number of sticker artists to grow real soon! *Ayus!*

Street Plan: Street Art Manila Expo opens at the Store For All Seasons, 605 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City at 4 p.m. today, Sept. 9. For information, call or text 0917-3291339.

Check out mutationation.deviantart.com, www.fotolog.com/boyagimat and www.fotolog.com/deformindustry.


Michelle Simone's
Entertaining at Home
SUNDAY 10 AM
Premiering on September 10
on the Lifestyle Network
www.michellesimone.com
Seen on SKY Cable Ch.47 For local listing, call your cable operator.

Veni, Vidi, Vici!

From page D2

the Romans do, as we were told. So when in Venice, why not wear what gondoliers wear? Very roomy and the perfect thing to wear under the hot, hot, hot Venetian sun. Just be careful not to be mistaken as one of the local boatmen.

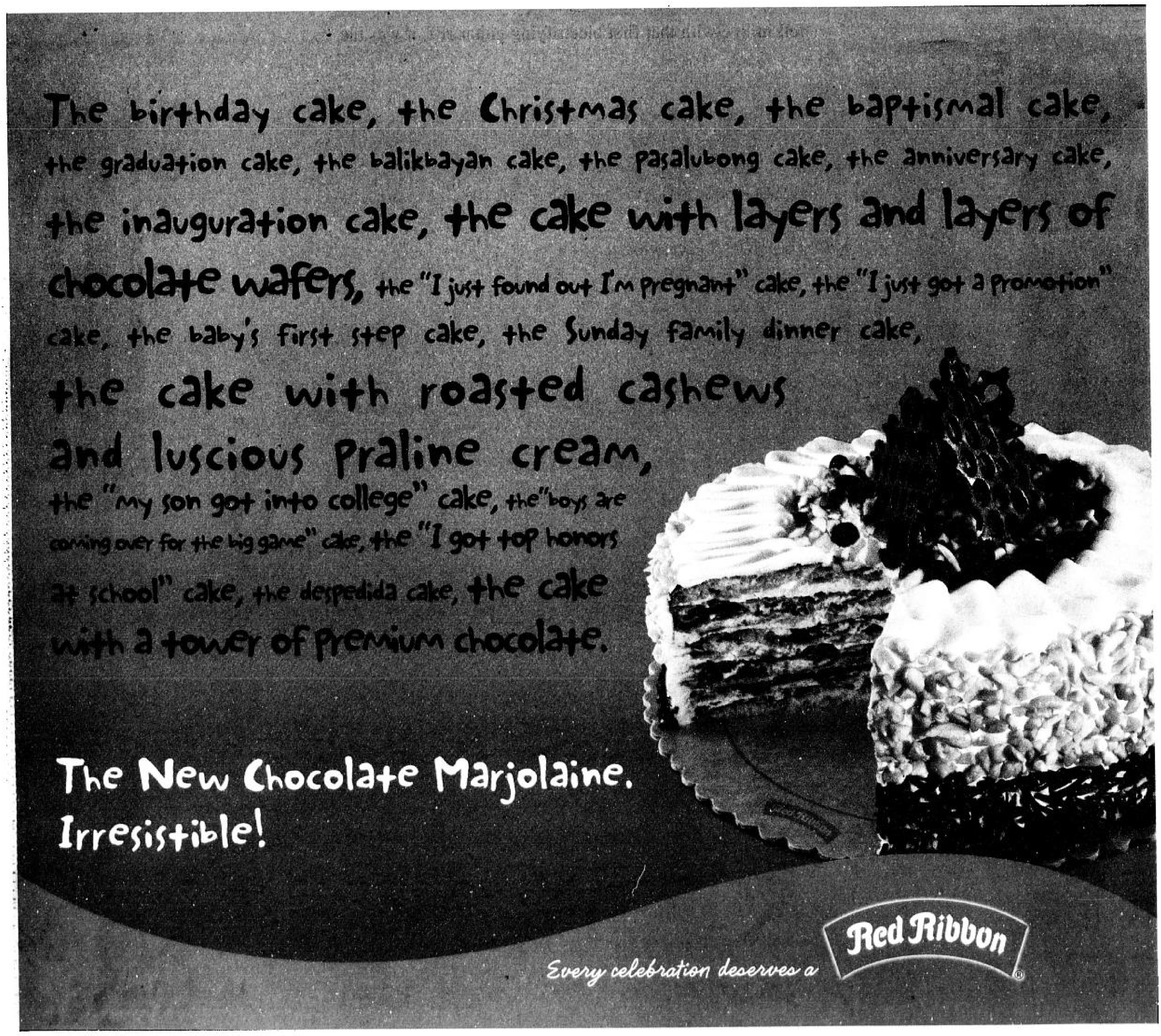
8. **Blue Greek trinkets.** Just like the Pinoys, Greeks are quite superstitious. Like our local amulets or *anting-anting*, most Greeks wear blue trinkets, which come in different designs that are supposed to ward off the evil eye and ensure a long and peaceful life for them.

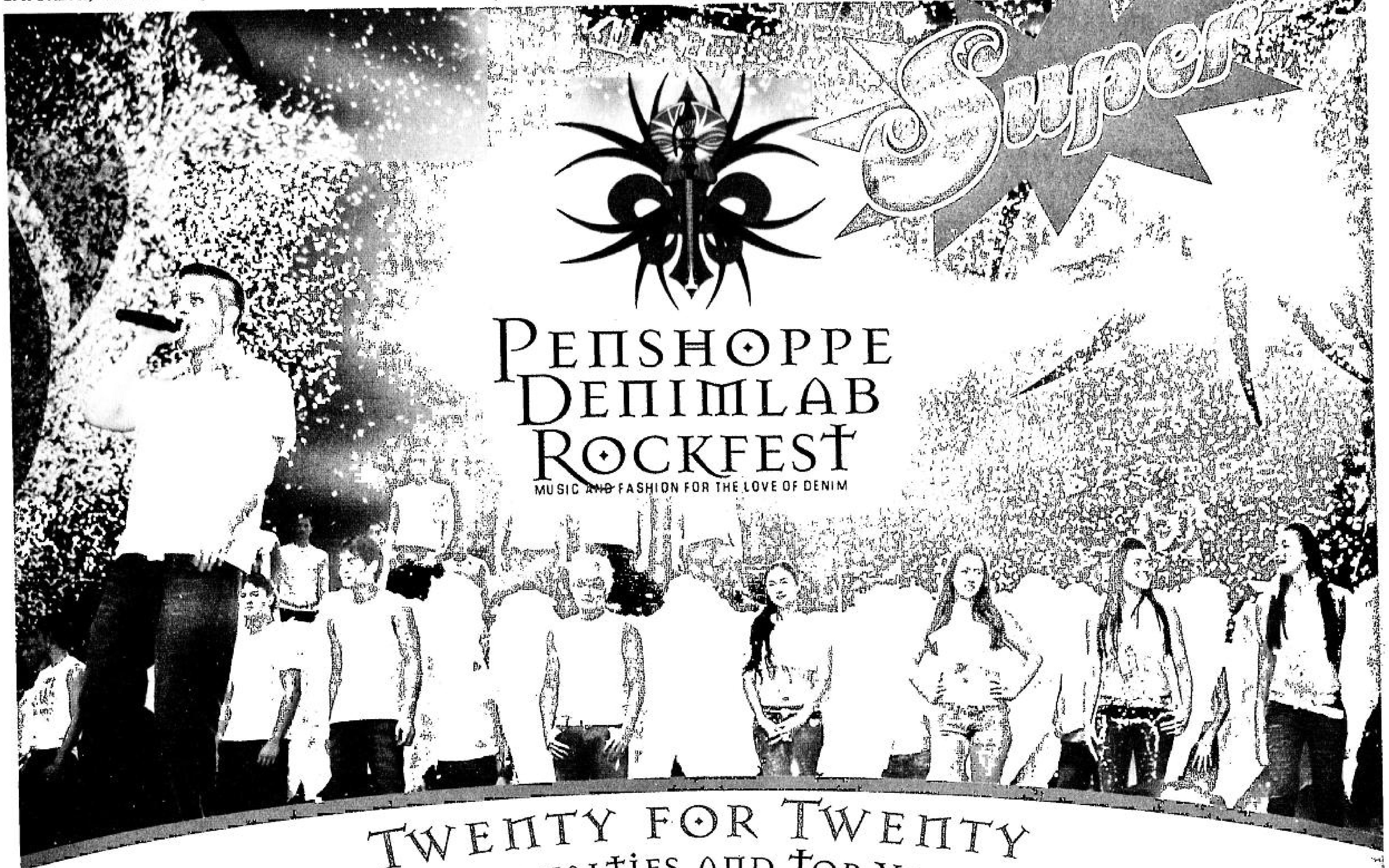
9. **Gold and silver jewelry from Corfu.** I saw a lot of gorgeous gold and silver filigree jewelry while walking around the local market in Corfu. We went wild over the pieces had intricate designs and colors and were already haggling over the prices even before I could take a closer look at the display. Almost all the jewelry was handmade and mixed and matched with olive wood, which gave it a very eye-catching appeal.

10. **Handmade Lace from Malta.** Known locally as "Bizzilla," Maltese lace is considered an art in itself and is quite pricey. The finer and more intricately made Gozo lace is more expensive. We were told that there are only a few lacemakers in some villages who continue with this tradition. I'd love to wear some of this lace!

Our visits to Venice and Messina (which is in Godfather land of Sicily) are both in Italy and yet are so different from each other. The canals and gondolas is what Venice is famous for, and Messina is reminiscent of the murallas or walled cities of Spain, much like our own Intramuros. Corfu gave us a look at the idyllic life in a small coastal Greek town. Malta was full of surprises, with its churches, festivals and traditions.

E-mail the author at eatyourtofu@pldtdsl.net


The birthday cake, the Christmas cake, the baptismal cake, the graduation cake, the balikbayan cake, the pasalubong cake, the anniversary cake, the inauguration cake, the cake with layers and layers of chocolate wafers, the "I just found out I'm pregnant" cake, the "I just got a promotion" cake, the baby's first step cake, the Sunday family dinner cake, the cake with roasted cashews and luscious praline cream, the "my son got into college" cake, the "boys are coming over for the big game" cake, the "I got top honors at school" cake, the despedida cake, the cake with a tower of premium chocolate.
The New Chocolate Marjolaine.
Irresistible!
Every celebration deserves a
Red Ribbon


PENSHOPPE
DENIMLAB
ROCKFEST
MUSIC AND FASHION FOR THE LOVE OF DENIM

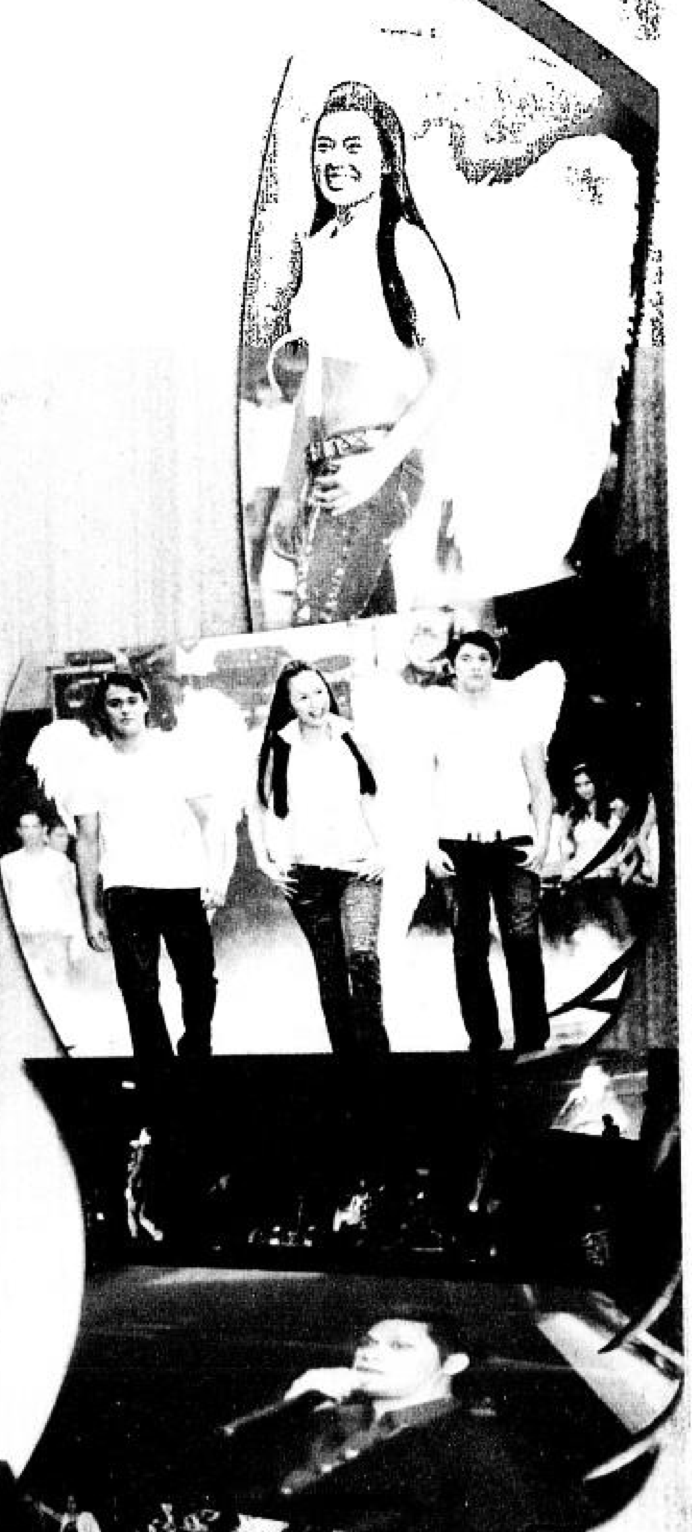
TWENTY FOR TWENTY

20 PINOY ROCK ROYALTIES AND TOP YOUNG DESIGNERS CONVERGE TO CELEBRATE MUSIC, FASHION AND 20 YEARS OF PENSHOPPE

Contained within the massive dome-shaped structure that is the Araneta Coliseum, the pulsating energy of the screaming crowd was enough to power half the city. It was a clear indication that once that first drumbeat fell in line with that first electrifying guitar riff, it was the music that would be the fuel behind the fire of what was the biggest fashion event cum rock concert of the year.

Directed by Joey Espino, Penshoppe Denimlab Rockfest paid tribute to that cutting-edge connection between the Filipino's youth's style and music in a showcase of lights and sound never before witnessed in Philippine concert stage.

As diverse as one's personal sense of style can be, so are there as many sub-genres for rock music. Penshoppe took from this idea and created five trendsetting collections to match five very distinct musical sounds: Street Rock, Funk Rock, Pop Rock, Rebel Rock and Power Rock. To push their style quotients further up a few notches, the bands' frontmen (and women) were clad in razor-sharp yet quirky denim creations by the members of the Young Designers Guild combined with Penshoppe Denimlab gear. Well-dressed and in-tune with the music… this party was off to an awesome start.



STREET ROCK KEEPS IT REAL

When the first "doobidoo-bidoos" filled the air and made its way to the audience's ears, the crowd went wild, as **Kamikazee** entertained with their trademark wacky onstage antics to jumpstart the Street Rock set. With their accessible melodies and stories of your everyday man-on-the-street, as was the case of "who-hasn't-heard-of-this-song" "Narda", they were a fitting start to the rockfest that was to ensue. In keeping with the stylish theme, **Kamikazee's Jay** found himself looking spiffy in a funky jacket whipped up by fashion genius **Louis Claparols**.

With the crowd's energy about to hit fever pitch, **Parokya ni Edgar** joined that already rowdy quintet onstage for a rollicking performance of their massive hit "The Ordertaker." To say that the crowd went wild was an understatement, thanks to **Chito Miranda's** crazy cool persona – the perfect canvas for **Reian Mata's** trendy ensemble. After a medley of other **Parokya** favorites, these wacky rockers turned over the reins of the stage to **Mayonnaise**, who performed two of their hits, "Bakit" and "Dahil" to draw the Street Rock set to a close.

AN ECLECTIC TWIST WITH FUNK ROCK

In what would seem like a 360-degree turn in vibe and sound, the music turned eclectic with an interesting combination of the new Manila sound, soul-jazz, funk and pop in a very hip and very now, Funk rock set. With designers **John Herrera**, **Brian Leyva** and **Joey Samson** putting a twist to Penshoppe denim gear for this batch of artists, the performances headed down a truly eclectic cool route.

Fresh new band **Kala** took everyone for ride with their song "Jeepney" on the way to "Manila High." Against the backdrop of that steady vibe, **Up Dharma Down** captivated the crowd with their powerful soul-filled performance of their ode to the aches and pains of unrequited love, "Oo." It would suffice to say that the crowd was caught between happy and heartbroken, but only in a way that a great song can make you feel.

The music made a return to the upbeat and fun side, this being the funk rock set and all, when **Itchyworms** and **Pedicab** took to the stage. Both dressed in tailored yet trendy jackets by **Joey Samson**, only good things could follow from there. **Itchyworms** opened their set with the very tongue-in-cheek ditty "Beer," destined to be the heartbreak anthem of every man from Manila, but they brought it back to the hopeful and happy side with the fun "Akin Ka Na Lang," which sent the crowd into a cheering frenzy.

With energy levels back on the high end of the spectrum, it was the perfect time for **Pedicab's** entrance and segue to the punk-inspired "Dito Tayo Sa Dilim", the first notes of which were heard as the moving stage inched forward. The band's performance was punctuated by **Diego Mapa's** 20-second stint as a model when he let go of the mic and strutted down the runway. After all, this was also a fashion show. Work it, **Diego!**

POP ROCK RULES

And then there were five. Bands that is, who made up the roster of cool groups who comprised the Pop rock set of the evening. Each one brought a unique sound to the stage, exciting the crowd with songs that got the audience well-primed to sing along to their favorite tunes for the rest of the night.

Hale took to the stage to get the set started with their emo cult hit, albeit with very hopeful lyrics, "Blue Sky," which had all the gals screaming from the moment **Champ Lui-Pio**, wearing a motorcycle jacket by **Mitzi Quelendrino**, uttered the song's opening lines. The band cranked up the volume once again when the took on the tune "Kailangan Ka," which got the crowd ready for the high-powered performance by the very new, but already sizzling hot, band **Protein Shake**. Frontman **Tutti Caringal**, looking very sexy in a jacket by **Ivar Aseron**, gave everyone a taste of their brand of true blue Pinoy rock with their current singles "Ganyan" and "Malas Mo."

It was back to emo mode when **Calla Lily** and **Juana** took their spot in the limelight. **Calla Lily's Kean** won over the crowd with their song "Stars" which had everyone singing along to the chorus before turning the mic over to **Juana**. While she started her set live and loud, it was her song "Goodbye" that became her shining moment as her voice filled the coliseum.

As the set drew to a close, it was the anthemic songs of **6cyclemind** that truly brought the house down. It did not take much on the part of lead vocalist **Ney**, known for his hyper and energetic performances, to convince the crowd to sing along to "Trip", "I" and "Sandalan" at the top of their lungs while dancing, to boot.

FOR YOUR INNER REBEL

As in fashion and rock music, there is always that inner wild child longing to break free. What better place is there to unleash all that pent up energy than in front of a crowd of thousands at the Big Dome. Set against the backdrop of the music of **Sandwich**, **Imago**, **Mojofly** and **Sugarfree**, the only way to go was wild over Rebel rock.

Eschewing a grand entrance, **Aia** of **Imago**, looking every inch a rebel rocker in a **James Reyes** original, took the dramatic route by sitting right smack dead-center on the ramp before breaking into the first melancholic notes of the quietly poignant "Akap." You could almost hear a pin drop in the silence that followed as her powerful voice filled every inch of the arena. As she made her way back up the runway, the vibe shifted to party mode as **Imago** picked up the pace via the songs "Anino" and "Taralets" with matching choreography as only this band can deliver.

A strong female performance deserves another equally powerful female voice, which came in fine form in **Mojofly's Lougee**. She rocked the house with two of the band's biggest hits, "Mata" and "Tumatakbo," as her voice rang clear from the first note to the last. It suffice to say that this was the perfect foil for the entrance of positively the hottest band in the scene today, **Sandwich**. **Raymund Marasigan** and his crew took their ten minutes on that stage and transformed it into what could be the finest performance of the night. The seats lay empty with everyone on their feet itching to get moving in time with **Raymund's** funky dance steps up and down the runway as he belted out "Walang Kadala-dala." But it was when **Diego** and **Mong's** guitars got in sync for the opening licks of the runaway hit "Sugod" that madness followed, with the audience bursting into simultaneous applause and song.

Picking up on that pulsating performance, **Sugarfree** took their turn at the mic with a rockin' rendition of their super-hit "Hari ng Sablay", which drew even more cheers and applause from the already pumped crowd. Still on their feet, everyone was put into back into a nice and steady mood when **Ebe Dancel** segued into the calming and heartwarming tune "Tulog Na."

POWER ROCK WRAPS UP THE NIGHT

With the Penshoppe DenimLab Rockfest opening on a very raw and rockin' note, it was only fitting that four of the hottest, sexiest and most intense bands in the country – **Spongecola**, **Dicta License**, **Pupil** and **Bamboo** – deliver a mind-boggling Power rock set to close the show. From face-melting guitar riffs to thought-provoking lyrics, combined with enigmatic onstage personas, this set could have passed for

KALA
IN JOHN HERRER

PEDICAB
IN JOEY SAMSON

JUANA
IN JOHN HERRERA

SUGARFREE
IN PATTY EUSTAQUIO

MOJOFLY
IN CIARA MARASIGAN

HALE IN
MITZI QUILENDRINO-BUSTOS

MAYONNAISE
IN DONG OMAGA-DIAZ

ITCHYWORMS
IN JOEY SAMSON

IMAGO
IN JAMES REYES

KAMIKAZEE
IN LOUIS CLAPAROLS

PAROKYA NI EDGAR
IN REJAN MATA

6CYCLEMIND
IN BRIAN LEYVA

UP DHARMA DOWN
IN BRIAN LEYVA

LAYOUT & DESIGN G.A. FALLARME PHOTOGRAPHY RAMON TAN MANGILA ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY BING BASIT & LEO CASTILLO

one stirring rock concert all on its own. The set got a major power boost when it was opened by one of the newest, but most prolific young bands of this generation, **Spongecola**, with the song 'Una." A pretty apt choice, given the song's title. But the performance piece for the band was their current single "Jeepney," which had frontman **Yael Yuzon** put on the moves to woo the ladies, who, in turn, swooned over the guys in the band. Taking their cue from the crowd's soaring applause, **Pupil** kicked things up a notch when they took over the stage with a hard-rocking set as only **Ely**, **Yan**, **Dok** and **Bogs** can serve up. While the guys appeared laid back onstage, without losing any of that intense "rocker" persona, the drum beats, guitar riffs and bass lines told a very different story. The amplified performance of their songs "Dianetic" and "Nasaan Ka" highlighted the ideal and sometimes whimsical fusion of these three elements combined with **Ely's** trademark vocals and insightful lyrics.

The boys of **Dicta License** opted to let their lyrics do the talking when they brought it "live and in free form" with their socially-conscious compositions. The set was fueled by vocalist **Pochoy Labog** who was jumping from one end of the stage to another, as though punctuating the many lessons his band had to teach this generation of music fans. Their songs "Ang Ating Araw" and "Alay Sa Nagkamalay Nung Dekada Nobenta" did keep the mood on the high side with their hopeful messages.

Drawing the show to a jaw-dropping climax was the most highly-anticipated performance of the night, from the boys of **Bamboo**. The four guys dished out a set of songs that started on the hard rocking side with "Mr. Clay" before slowing it down with a touch of funk and groove via the songs "Much Has Been Said" and "Truth." In an unexpected but quirky moment in between, **Bamboo** paused to lie down on the stage to tie his shoelaces. Cute. Then it was time to party hard, as **Bamboo** pulled out all the stops on his performance of the now-cult classic "Noypi" which had everyone stomping, clapping and singing along.

When the applause died down and lights dimmed, it was time to see it all come together, as the Penshoppe DenimLab models took to the stage once again to **Bamboo's** awe-inspiring and powerful performance of "Hallelujah." It was at this moment that the lines between rock music and fashion melted away and the two emerged as one in a grand celebration. The Penshoppe Denimlab Rockfest had highlighted the artistic talent and musicality of the Filipino in what could be one of its finest moments.

PUPIL IN FERDIE ABUEL

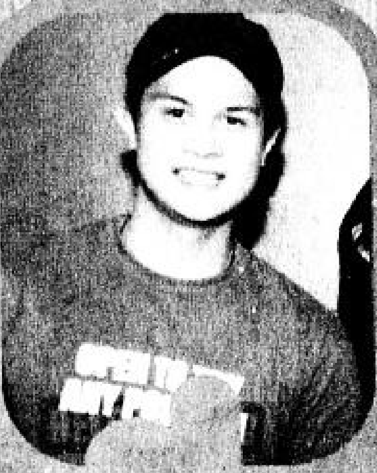
BAMBOO IN PATTY ...

SPONGECOLA IN CARLO JUQUINTO

PENSHOPPE DENIMLAB ROCKFEST SOUND BITES

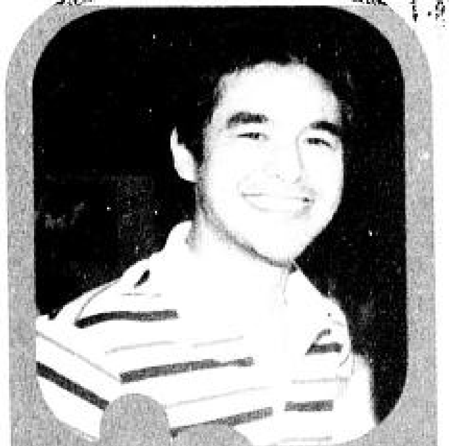
"A CELEBRATION OF PINOY INGENUITY IN BOTH FASHION AND MUSIC! IT WAS A ROCK ROLLERCOASTER WITH ENDLESS SHRIEKS AND SCREAMS OVER THE COUNTRY'S MOST TALENTED MUSICIANS!"
— PATTY LAUREL
BREAKFAST HOST

"THE CLOTHES WERE GREAT! I'M VERY PROUD OF THE YDG AND THANKFUL TO PENSHOPPE FOR PROMOTING NOT ONLY FILIPINO MUSIC, BUT ALSO PHILIPPINE DESIGN TALENTS! I AM NOT A FAN OF ROCK MUSIC, BUT I HAD A GOOD TIME! NICE SHOW, FULL OF ENERGY!
— JOJIE LLOREN
PRESIDENT, FASHION DESIGN COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES (FDCP)


"IT WAS THE BIGGEST AND MOST ELECTRIC ROCK SHOW OF THE YEAR WITH A TOUCH OF DENIM!"
— JC CUADRADO
BREAKFAST HOST

"THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAY IT. THE SHOW LITERALLY ROCKED!"
— BUBBLES PARAISO
BLOG HOST

"AN UNPRECEDENTED GATHERING OF PINOY POP CULTURE SHAKERS FROM MUSIC AND FASHION. ALSO, THE YDG'S RE-WORKED JACKETS WORN BY OUR SCENE'S ROCK STARS ARE THIS SEASON'S DEFINITE MUST HAVES! I WANT ONE!"
— TIM YAP
CREATIVE DIRECTOR


"A GOOD THAT FOCUSED ON MUSIC AND FASHION RATHER THAN CORPORATE DRIVEL. "CONSIDERING IT WAS THE COMPANY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY! PENSHOPPE OBVIOUSLY HAD THE AUDIENCE IN MIND WHEN THEY PLANNED THE SHOW."
— ATOM ARAULLO
BREAKFAST HOST

"IT WAS GREAT TO SEE 20 OF OUR COUNTRY'S HOTTEST ROCK BANDS WEARING DENIMS AND DESIGNER CLOTHES BY PENSHOPPE. THE SHOW ROCKED! GOOD ENERGY AND GOOD CROWD!"
— PAOLO PINEDA
SUPER PHOTOGRAPHER

"IT WAS A FABULOUS TRIBUTE TO FILIPINO ARTISTRY, WITH YDG DRESSING UP THE ROCK BANDS. I WAS HAPPY WITH HOW LOUGEE OF MOJOFLY WAS ABLE TO PULL OFF THE CHUNKY CUFF AND OVERSIZED NECKPIECE I MADE FOR HER!"
— CIARA MARASIGAN, YDG

SANDWICH IN LZ PUNZALAN

PROTEIN SHAKE IN JVARLUSKI ASERON

DICTA LICENSE IN YVONNE QUISUMBING-ROMULO

CALLALILY IN LZ PUNZALAN

one stirring rock concert all on its own. The set got a major power boost when it was opened by one of the newest, but most prolific young bands of this generation, **Spongecola**, with the song 'Una." A pretty apt choice, given the song's title. But the performance piece for the band was their current single "Jeepney," which had frontman **Yael Yuzon** put on the moves to woo the ladies, who, in turn, swooned over the guys in the band. Taking their cue from the crowd's soaring applause, **Pupil** kicked things up a notch when they took over the stage with a hard-rocking set as only **Ely**, **Yan**, **Dok** and **Bogs** can serve up. While the guys appeared laid back onstage, without losing any of that intense "rocker" persona, the drum beats, guitar riffs and bass lines told a very different story. The amplified performance of their songs "Dianetic" and "Nasaan Ka" highlighted the ideal and sometimes whimsical fusion of these three elements combined with **Ely's** trademark vocals and insightful lyrics.

The boys of **Dicta License** opted to let their lyrics do the talking when they brought it "live and in free form" with their socially-conscious compositions. The set was fueled by vocalist **Pochoy Labog** who was jumping from one end of the stage to another, as though punctuating the many lessons his band had to teach this generation of music fans. Their songs "Ang Ating Araw" and "Alay Sa Nagkamalay Nung Dekada Nobenta" did keep the mood on the high side with their hopeful messages.

Drawing the show to a jaw-dropping climax was the most highly-anticipated performance of the night, from the boys of **Bamboo**. The four guys dished out a set of songs that started on the hard rocking side with "Mr. Clay" before slowing it down with a touch of funk and groove via the songs "Much Has Been Said" and "Truth." In an unexpected but quirky moment in between, **Bamboo** paused to lie down on the stage to tie his shoelaces. Cute. Then it was time to party hard, as **Bamboo** pulled out all the stops on his performance of the now-cult classic "Noypi" which had everyone stomping, clapping and singing along.

When the applause died down and lights dimmed, it was time to see it all come together, as the Penshoppe DenimLab models took to the stage once again to **Bamboo's** awe-inspiring and powerful performance of "Hallelujah." It was at this moment that the lines between rock music and fashion melted away and the two emerged as one in a grand celebration. The Penshoppe Denimlab Rockfest had highlighted the artistic talent and musicality of the Filipino in what could be one of its finest moments.

PUPIL
IN F DIE ABUEL

BAMBOO
IN PATTY E

SPONGECOLA
IN CARLO JEQUINTO

PENSHOPPE DENIMLAB
SOUND BITES

"A GOOD THAT FOCUSED ON MUSIC AND FASHION RATHER THAN CORPORATE DRIVEL. CONSIDERING IT WAS THE COMPANY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY, PENSHOPPE OBVIOUSLY HAD THE AUDIENCE IN MIND WHEN THEY PLANNED THE SHOW."
— ATOM ARAULLO
BREAKFAST HOST

"THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAY IT. THE SHOW LITERALLY ROCKED!"
— BUBBLES PARAISO
BLOG HOST

"IT WAS GREAT TO SEE 20 OF OUR COUNTRY'S HOTTEST ROCK BANDS WEARING DENIMS AND DESIGNER CLOTHES BY PENSHOPPE. THE SHOW ROCKED! GOOD ENERGY AND GOOD CROWD!"
— PAOLO PINEDA
SUPER PHOTOGRAPHER

SANDWICH
IN LZ PUNZALAN

PROTEIN SHAKE
IN IVARLUSKI AS RON

DICTA LICENSE IN
YVONNE Q SUMBING-ROMULO

CALLALILY IN
LZ PUNZALAN

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

DREAMIN' OF DENIM

THE YOUNG DESIGNERS GUILD OF THE PHILIPPINES WEAVES MAGIC ON PENSHOPPE DENIMLAB

[illegible] John Herrera, Ciara Marasigan, Ivarluski Aseron, James Reyes, Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, Joey Samson, LZ Punzalan, Reian Mata, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Patty Eustaquio, Ferdie Abuel, Louis Claparols, Mitzi Quilendrino Bustos. Seated left to right: Brian Leyva and Carlo Jequinto

Photography
Kai Huang
Ramon Tan Mangila

THE NIGHT WHEN ROCK STARS BECAME STYLE SETTERS...

Give the youth what they really want and they'll keep coming back to you. This is what Penshoppe has done in the last 20 years. The casual clothing brand has continuously provided the youth with more than a peek into the trend pulse of fashion. For 20 years, Penshoppe has given options to the style-savvy youngster, combining hip with wearable, trendy with traditional.

In celebration of their 20th year, Penshoppe once again caters to the wants of their youth-led market, reuniting fashion with another one of this generation's passions: music. 20 of the country's top bands came together for one night to honor the youth and provide an exciting soundtrack to Penshoppe's denim-piloted fashions. Adding more glitz to the brew, the fashion show was in collaboration with the design prodigies of the Young Designer's Guild (YDG), where designers were asked to dress up each of the rock bands.

The fashion show cum rockfest which was directed by **Joey Espino** panned out in five segments, each one as rousing and visually engaging as the next. Hit comic band **Kamikazee** started off the show, as well as the Street Rock segment. Frontman **Jay** burst onto stage in a striped, streamlined jacket by **Louis Claparols** amidst models decked out in rock's most urbanized materializations. Torn, blasted jeans set off black-rimmed eyes, brave mohawks, unruly curls, and black lipstick — on both men and women. Military influences were evident in the blatant use of earth colors and the profusion of pockets. Skinny ties, worn askewed, were the main accessories, as well as abundant studs and rivets. This segment's highlight saw Penshoppe endorsers **Jericho Rosales** and **Heart Evangelista,** strutting down in the most eclectic street styles: **Jericho** in a tailored jacket with an exaggerated corsage, and **Heart** in a brown shirt dress liberally accented with studs and cut-off jeans.

As the runway cleared off models, **Parokya ni Edgar** comes in, with lead singer **Chito** decked out in comfy jeans and a striped preppy shirt by **Reian Mata**. Mayonnaise soon followed, wearing fashion by YDG founding president **Dong Omaga Diaz**. Vocalist **Monty** wore an updated letterman's jacket with a huge "M" stitched on the back. Deconstructed jeans, a funky 'do, and chains finish off the ensemble

The music mellowed down a bit in the Funk Rock segment and featured bands **Kala, Up Dharma Down, Itchyworms**, and **Pedicab,** although the fashion didn't show any signs of slowing down. Penshoppe glorifies the British youth scene as models took to the catwalk in dark skinny jeans, skinny ties, huge eyewear, and stylish hats. The male models posted androgyny in fitted shirts, while the girls shook up things in prints, pastel colors, and rubber galoshes worn over jeans.

Kala stuck to the theme, with lead singer **Mike** wearing a brown patched shirt by **John Herrera** over a logo tee, while keyboardist donned a tie and fedora. Design rookie **Brian Leyva** follows through for **Up Dharma Down,** dressing up **Armi** and keyboardist in a multi-pocketed faded denim jacket. The **Itchyworms** didn't deviate much from their usual spiffy suit and tie get-up, only this time **Joey Samson** went trigger-happy with button details. **Joey** also dressed up **Pedicab** lead **Diego** in proper funk fashion: a panelled jacket in various denim finishes.

Penshoppe brought out the bubblegum for the Pop Rock section, bannered by **Hale, 6CycleMind, Callalily, Juana,** and **Protein Shake**. The boldest patterns — checks, stripes, logos — set the tone for bright colors and energetic mismatch. Models sashayed in jean ensembles and a variety of colorful accessories, from visors to hats to striped tights.

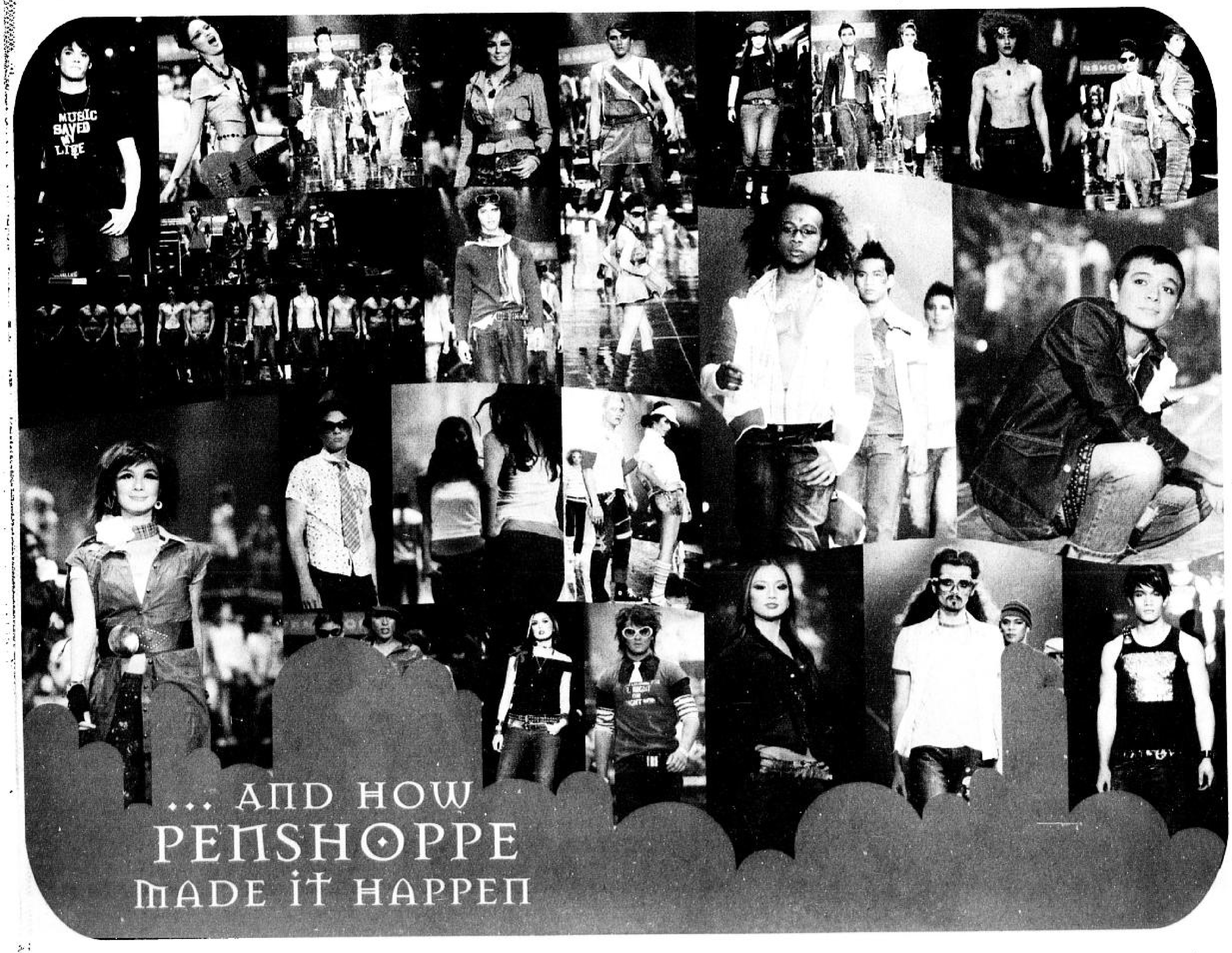
The color toned down a bit as **Hale's** popular lead vocalist **Champ** belted out their hits in a gray boxy jacket and dark jeans lined with light strips, both by designer **Mitzi Quilendrino. Protein Shake's Tutti** followed suit in riveted jeans and a two-toned shirtjacket with pocket details, put together by designer standout **Ivar Aseron. LZ Punzalan** took over **Callalily's Kian** fashion frontage. He dressed up **Kian's** in a tailored short-sleeved with extended coattails in the back. For **Juana's** turn on the stage, **John Herrera** chose to put lead **Shirley** in an outfit worthy of a rock princess: a corset belt over a hot pink logo tee, with beaded and embroidered denim jeans. **6CycleMind's Ney** also rocked in contemporary rider's jacket with sleeve pockets and frayed edges.

Goth took over in the Rebel Rock segment. Club Pen models — **Nikki Gil, Matteo Guidicelli, Victor Basa, Dawn Balagot,** and new members **Vicky Herrara** and **Einar Ingebrigstein** — started off the fashion run-off clad in dark jeans, stylized black tops, piles of crosses and rhinestones, and streaked hair. Bare-chested male models then took over, their physiques drawing attention to torn and tattered jeans, dark makeup, and a barrage of chains and studded belts. The remarkable styling was done by Penshoppe's merchandising team.

Imago fills in for the models, with lead songstress **Aia** walking the ramp, wooing the audience in an embellished tee and bubble skirt ensemble by YDG president **James Reyes. Mojofly's Lougee** continues the girl power streak in a sheer black top enhanced with chunky hot pink accessories by **Ciara Marasigan. Raimund** of **Sandwich** was a standout and pure "rak en roll" in a loosened straitjacket-style top by **LZ Punzalan**. Young designer **Patty Eustaquio** levelled out the black dictate by dressing up **Sugarfree** crooner **Ebe** in a checkered shirt and jean combo togged up with patches.

The music played on into the Power Rock segment. YDG founding member **Carlo Jequinto** stylized **Spongecola** belter **Yael** in an interesting creation that mixes schoolboy stripes, khaki, and corduroy. **Pupil's Ely** took centerstage in a **Ferdie Abuel** creation: a checkered western-style shirt with a black jacket, and denim jeans with frayed cut-out patterns. **Pochoy** of **Dicta License's** hard-edged vocals were complemented with an equally graphic logo tee by **Yvonne Quisimbing** — the shirt featured a large image of a blade in front, and a stitched gaunt face on the back.

The show finale starred no less than **Bamboo**. Band frontman **Bamboo**, in a cowboy shirt with scattered prints by **Patty Eustaquio,** pumped up the crowd with the stirring lyrics of their smash hit, Noypi Coming into **Bamboo's** final song, Hallelujah, Penshoppe sent out models in what has given them 20 years of retail leverage: more stylish jean statements, a truly fitting praise to this night that united music and style.



... AND HOW PENSHOPPE MADE IT HAPPEN

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
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SATURDAY *Special*

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ROBERT, DRAE, RAMIRR AND GIAN. Won two jurors' nod, but only Drae got viewers' strongest support.

Text votes compromise search for best singers on 'Philippine Idol'

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE WROTE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS of "Philippine Idol" some weeks ago, we opined that it was likely that the tilt's jurors (Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales, Francis M) would discover some truly gifted new singers, but the big question would be if the show's text-voters would select the best and most deserving winners.

Verdict

Alas, it looks like our trepidation is coming true. Last Sunday, the first text-voting verdict was announced, selecting the best four from a field of 12 male semi-finalists, and the results were radically different from the judges' own preferences (as well as ours).

Asked to tick off their own four best bets after last Saturday's performance round, Ryan and Francis identically announced their preference for Robert, Drae, Ramirr and Gian. (We were pleased to see that their choices dovetailed with our own selections.)

Unfortunately, after the text-voters' preferences were announced, the four top winners turned out to be Drae, Miguel, Reymond and Jan.

So, it turns out that, from the jurors' list,

TEXT/F2

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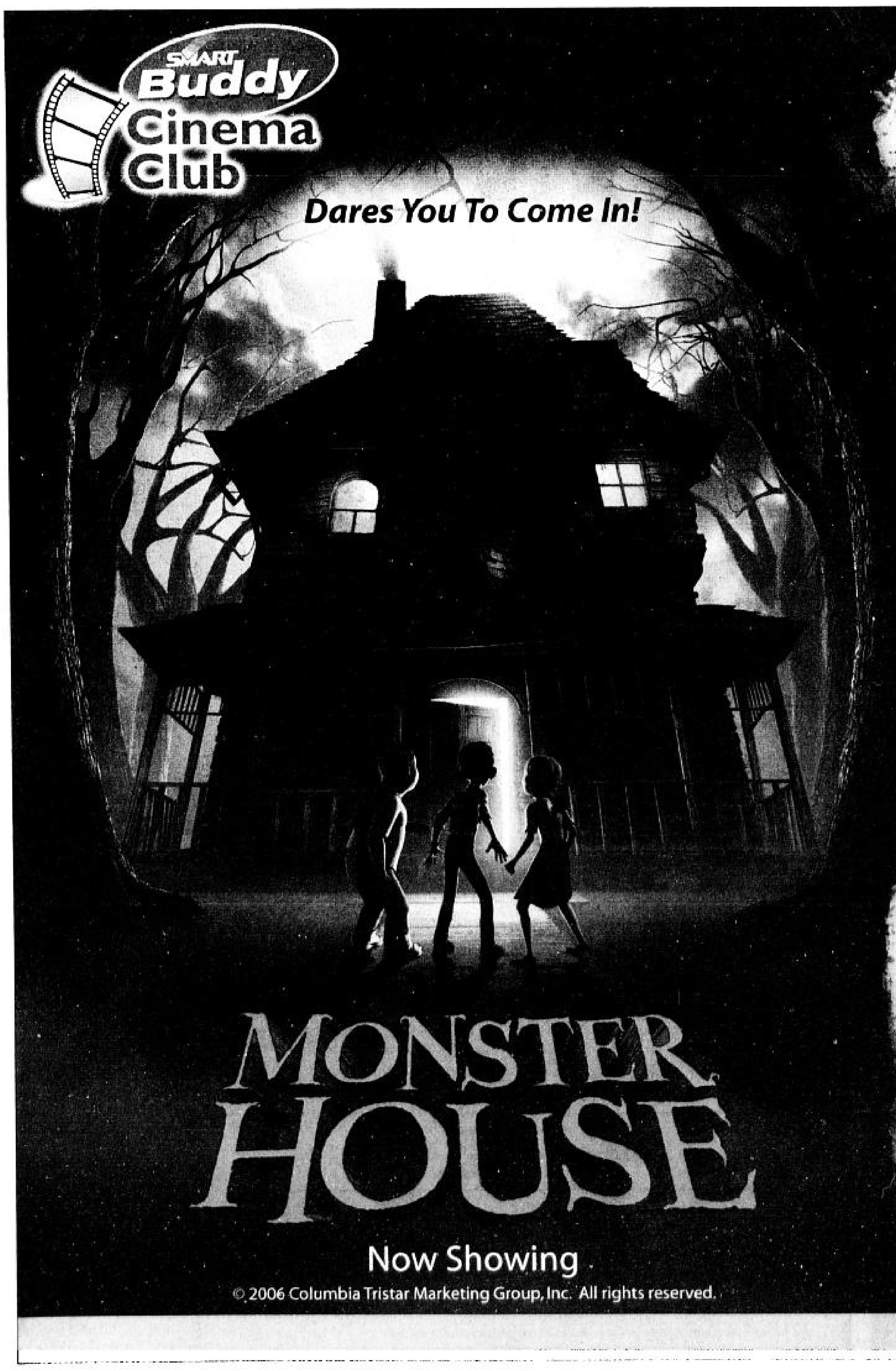

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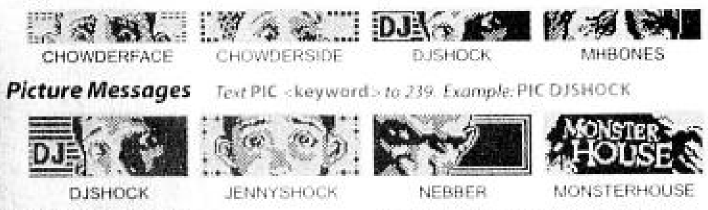

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Back-to-basics experiment pays off for Christina Aguilera

Christina Aguilera
Back to Basics

AGUILERA. More somber, less aggressive.

By Rito P. Asilo

WHEN "BACK TO BASICS," CHRISTINA Aguilera's two-disc, 22-song follow-up to her crass and unremarkable 2002 sophomore album, "Stripped," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart last week, it marked the end of the singer's flirtation with over-the-top image-tweaking and a remarkable catharsis after that episode of emotional *cum* artistic meltdown. This time around, the singer impresses more than she shocks.

Anger and defiance

The 25-year-old diva's anger and defiance—to an abusive father ("Oh Mother"), her harsh critics ("Still Dirrty") and her former recording partner, Scott Torch ("F.U.S.S.")—are still there.

But, this time, Aguilera is more somber, less aggressive, and displays an optimistic streak that radiates from the pop-heavy first disc to the musically-accomplished, more intimate second act.

Christina's songs have always bordered on the schmaltzy ("I Turn to You"), radio-friendly ("Reflection"), and disco-pop variety ("Genie in a Bottle," "Come on Over"), but her genuinely powerful pipes and technical skills have always seen her through mediocre songs and bad career choices.

In her exciting, self-penned new collection, she pays fitting tribute to Etta James, Billie Holiday and other legendary chanteuses whose sound made the pop charts sizzle from the 1930s to the 1960s, and injects the modern sound of hip-hop, rap, R&B, grunge and electronica into them.

In the first track, she explains why she's going back to basics "where it all began/ To those before me who laid it down and paved the way…"

"Ain't No Other Man," the first single culled from the album, is a scorching, bold floor-thumper that celebrates love and loyalty.

But, the musical sizzle and dazzle doesn't stop there: "Makes Me Wanna Pray" features guest artist Steve Winwood in a number that conjures up the sound and spirit of Madonna at her naughtiest, slickest and most infectious.

Silky, sultry vocals

Another outstanding track, the sexy "Nasty, Naughty Boy," shows off Aguilera's silky, sultry vocals as she coos through a torch song-like arrangement.

We also wouldn't be surprised to see "Hurt"—with its pleading lyrics and catchy melody—on top of adult contemporary and pop charts anytime soon.

Unlike Britney Spears, Aguilera's thin-voiced contemporary who relies heavily on overpowering synthesizers, well-engineered dance tunes and funky arrangements, the latter's "security blanket" is her voice—an enviable instrument that she has full control of.

Household name

Dance floor-friendly tracks like "Lady Marmalade" have made Christina a household name, but in her latest CD, she also displays pure, sweet singing and interpretive subtlety in "Save Me from Myself," and "Without You," the singer's exquisite paean to her hubby that drips with unmasked sentimentality and ballad-romp brilliance.

If you like the energy, the four-part harmony and the infectious groove of songs like "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B" and similar swing tracks from the likes of The Andrews Sisters, you'll find a snazzy, toe-tapping Aguilera-penned sound-alike here: "Candy Man," although the track is arguably the compilation's naughtiest number, lyrics-wise, as she shares how the

BACK/ F4

Text . . .

From page F1

only Drae survived the show's onslaught of text voters. Lucky for him, but unlucky for Robert, Ramirr and Gian, who were *really* the best of the lot, believe you us.

So, what's going on here? Well, this is why we've always been against making text votes the basis for choosing winners in *any* televised competition.

Sad to say, our viewers are not yet knowledgeable or objective enough to choose the best talents in any search for gifted newcomers.

Campaign

There's also the problem of a talent's backers mounting such a huge campaign that the text votes it engenders simply overwhelm the competition—even if the talent being voted for is relatively mediocre.

Some people counter that talent tilts select not really the best performers, but those with the greatest stellar potential, and popularity is a big part of stardom.

But, the text-voting process has been subverted so much by subjective campaigns that this conclusion is not merited. So, we stand by our stated preference for text votes *not* to be made the *primary* basis for victory in local talent searches.

Process

As for Robert, Gian and Ramirr, who were unfairly left out in the cold due to the flawed text-voting process, two of them still have a chance to get into the finals, because there are two slots left for male finalists.

Let's hope that their own cadres of supporters work overtime to make this happen by generating the most text-votes for them, so that they can remain in the running for "Philippine Idol," as they so richly deserve.

Tonight's "Philippine Idol" telecast has the tilt's 12 female semi-finalists vying for their group's own top four slots. Let's hope that, this time, genuine talent will out, and won't be upstaged by subjective text-voting.

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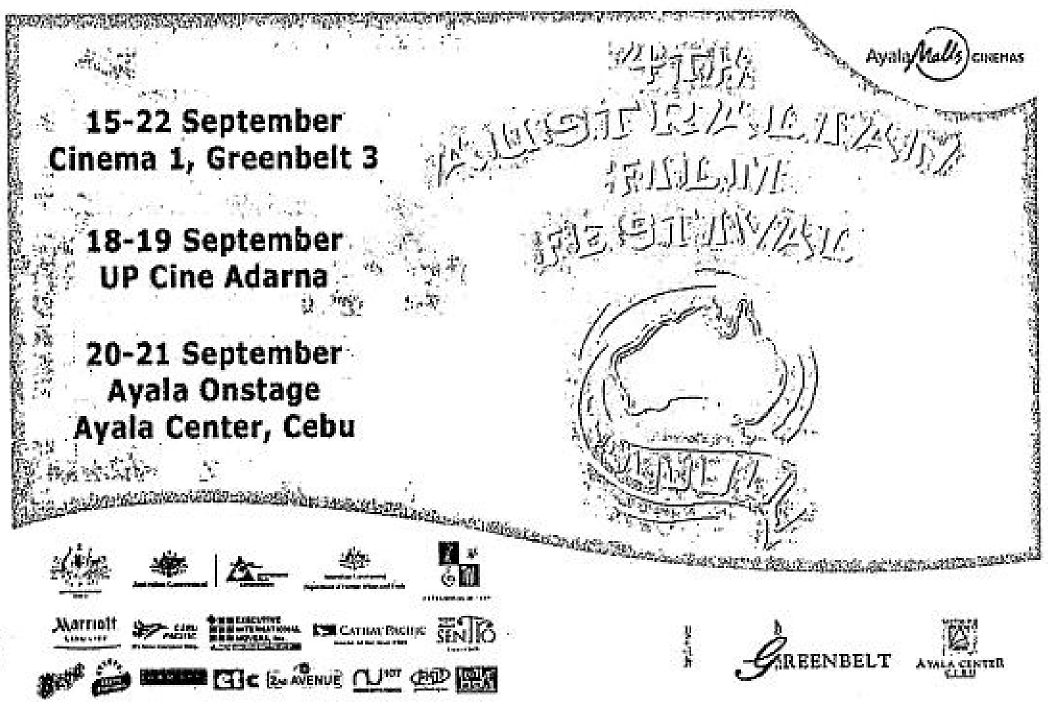

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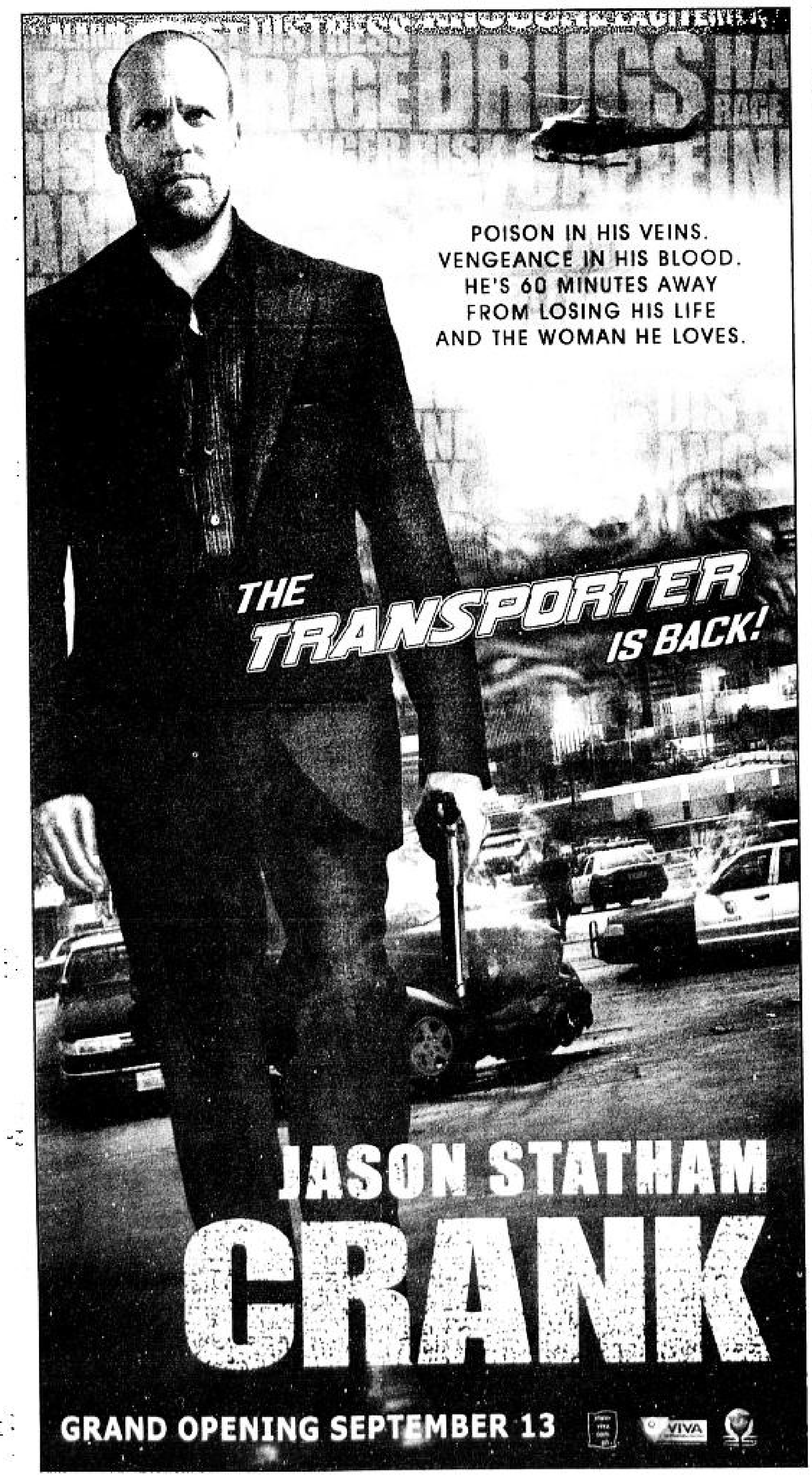

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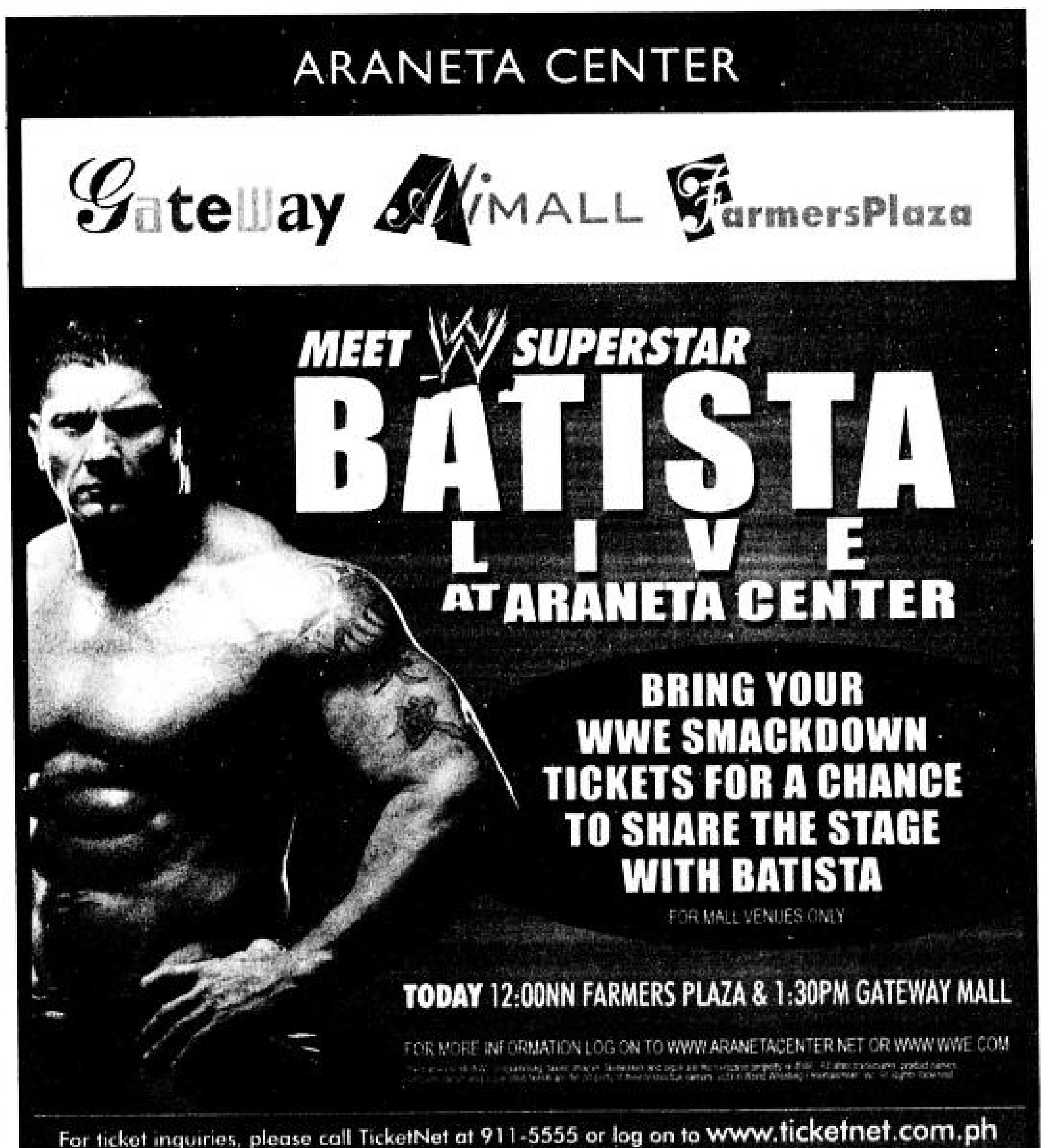

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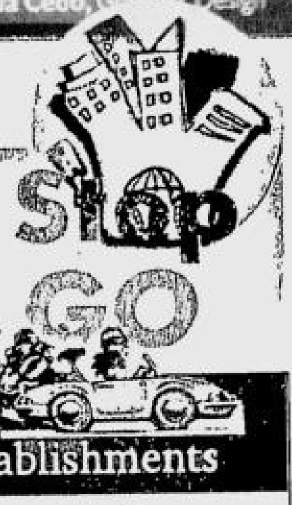

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The Bellevue Manila
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Alabang, Muntinlupa
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The Regent Hotel
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Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
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Chairman's: The best place to unwind when in Baguio

CHAIRMAN'S RESTAURANT AND MUSIC Lounge, situated at 08 Abanao Extension, 2nd floor Accord Bank Bldg., Baguio City with tel. no. (074)619-2234, is a place, nay, a sanctuary where beautiful minds and beautiful people meet. The state of the art KTV VIP rooms and its stunning dinning area bring a touch of relaxation and pure enjoyment.

Have a relaxing and meaningful time at Chairman's where good food, beautiful ambiance and soothing music are all combined in one great place. Shed your frustration and stress as the acoustically equipped KTV rooms lift your spirits as you sing your heart out.

Watch the nightly bands perform whether it be acoustic, reggae, blues or r&b, you'll surely enjoy your night out at Chairman's. Share a laugh, a glass of quality wine, best bartender's mix, or just a bottle of beer accompanied by their mouth watering Asian Cuisine at the dining area. You'll surely have a memorable time at Chairman's Restaurant and Music Lounge together with its proprietors Ben and Mike Yalung.

'Hong Kong Food Festival' at Marco Polo Hotel Davao

"MARCO POLO DAVAO IS BRINGING Hong Kong to this city of bloom and boom from highlands to islands."

This was how general manager Stanley Lau announced the staging of the "Hong Kong Food Festival" at the Marco Polo Davao's Lotus Court from September 8 to October 15.

"And one of Hong Kong's top cooking masters, Chef Choi Yuk Kay, will be here for this grand festival of exotic cuisines and seafood recipes," Lau added.

Kay, a recipient of the Golden Award at the 2005 Hofex and widely acknowledged as one of Hong Kong's best chefs, will introduce new delectable Oriental dishes of gastronomical proportions - from lobsters to shark's fin, steamed fish, and crabs in numerous flavors, sauces, and spices - prepared and cooked to astonishing perfection.

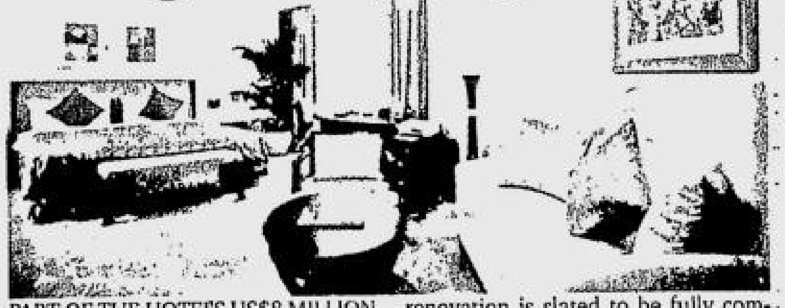
The lineup of Kay's savory dishes spans from ala carte to set menus - and a long list of mouth-watering appetizers, main courses and desserts in between.

Seafood menus include crispy prawns and bean curd in capital sauce, fried garoupa fillet with milk and egg, steamed sea scallop with bean curd in XO sauce, fried egg and fresh crabmeat with shark's fin, deep-fried garoupa fillet with preserved vegetables and glass noodle stock, braised abalone and sea cucumber with pork spare ribs, and steamed eel with black bean sauce, spicy chili and garlic fried crabs, sautéed squid with salt and pepper, and braised whole garoupa with eggplant.

For dessert, there are chilled mango and pomelo with sago and sweetened soup; double-boiled dates, fungus and papaya; water cashew nuts with egg syrup soup; double-boiled white fungus with fresh fruits; deep-fried taro with sugar coats; deep-fried coconut egg; glutinous rice with sago syrup soup; taro and sago in sweetened soup; crispy sesame banana; and dragon eye, barley and lotus seed syrup soup.

On the other hand, the set menus are available for a minimum of five persons and come in various weekly combinations during the six-week festival. For inquiries and reservations, call Marco Polo Davao (082) 221-0888 local 7232 or 7233.

Edsa Shangri-La unveils new garden wing



PART OF THE HOTEL'S US$8 MILLION Garden Wing renovations program, the newly renovated guestrooms at Edsa Shangri-La continue Shangri-La's tradition of luxury and style. It combines the latest in room design and guest convenience - a marriage of western design elements and internationally acclaimed Filipino craftsmanship. The rooms are modern in design yet at the same time infused with a more relaxed feel.

Fabrics were sourced from China and Japan, tiles from Italy and bathroom fixtures are from Germany. Furniture was made by the some of the Philippine's internationally-acclaimed furniture makers. The renovation work, which started in 2005, encompasses 192 guestrooms.

The final phase of the Garden Wing renovation is slated to be fully completed in early 2007 with the much-anticipated Chi Spa. The US$1.8 million spa will cover more than 3,000 sq. meters of floor area boasting of 10 treatment suites. The Edsa Shangri-La Chi spa is the first in Manila and is the fourth Chi spa to open in the Group.

The 625-room Edsa Shangri-La, located in Ortigas Center is the only resort hotel in the metropolis. Often called a "sanctuary in the city", it was awarded an ISO 14001 certification for its commitment to international environmental standards as well as for its involvement in various environmental initiatives. Recently, it was awarded "Best Hotel in Manila" by DestinAsian Magazine, the premier travel magazine in the Asia Pacific region.

Mid-autumn festival at Emperor Court

THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, MANILA'S (formerly New World Renaissance Hotel) premier Cantonese restaurant Emperor Court, celebrates the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival lavishly and in high style from Sept. 1 to Oct. 6.

Elegant boxes of freshly-made mooncake varieties, perfect for gift-giving, are offered at the hotel's grand lobby from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and at Emperor Court. The Moonlight Garden gift box includes four white lotus seed puree with double salted yolk mooncakes at P1,188 per box, while the Moonlight Pavilion box includes an assortment of mini mooncakes (lotus seed puree with single salted egg yolk, red bean puree, coconut meat and taro puree) partnered with a bottle of fine Antares Sta. Carolina wine from Cab Sau, Chile at P1,288 per box. As an added incentive, for every box of mooncakes purchased, a voucher worth P200 will be given which can be used for lunch or dinner at Emperor Court until Dec. 31.

Furthermore, a tasteful display of antique Chinese furniture by Noble House Antiques and a traditional Chinese tea ceremony and service will be held at the lobby from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

To cap things off, a Mid-Autumn dinner menu with 33 different palate-pleasing selections prepared by the Hotel's Chinese Master Chef Jackie Fong and his brigade of expert chefs will be offered on the night of Oct. 6 at P1,188+++ per person.

Mid-Autumn dinner price is subject to prevailing VAT, local government tax, and service charge. For orders and reservations, call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila at 811-6888.

People, Events & Products

Pilgrimage Tour

ENGRANDE TRAVEL AND TOURS BRINGS TOURISTS to experience a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Penafrancia and witness the fluvial parade and other tourist spots in the province. The tour promises to be an exciting one as it also includes a trip to Lake Buhi where the smallest fish in the world is found. A breakfast with the magnificent view of Mayon Volcano is also very enticing plus have fun in shopping at Cagsawa Ruins and Park. The tour is set for Sept. 15 to Sept. 17 but the group departs Manila on the evening of Sept. 14. Engrande Travel offers discounts and special packages. For more information on the tour call 851-0361; mobile 0921-9796165.

Centering Prayer Retreat

CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH PHILIPPINES WILL be holding a 3-day live-in Introductory to Centering Prayer Retreat on Sept. 15, 16, 17 at the St. Joseph Marello Retreat House in Tagaytay City. For inquiries and further information interested persons may call Anna Marie at 842-0201 or 842-4030, or e-mail annamariellanos@yahoo.com.

Ink technologies seminar

SIEGWERK, TOGETHER WITH LOCAL FIRM ASA Color and Chemical Industries Inc, will jointly sponsor a one-day seminar that will highlight the latest technological trends in the printing ink industry. Scheduled for Sept. 13, at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City, the seminar will cover a wide variety of topics, including the latest ink technologies: toluene-free ink technology for flexible packaging and UV ink systems for narrow web applications.

CFA confab

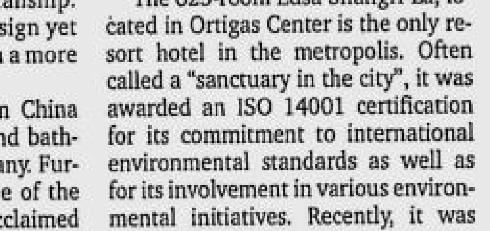
THE CFA SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES RECENTLY held its Information Night where the internationally recognized CFA Program that consequently awards the prestigious Chartered Financial Analyst designation to deserving candidates was imparted to its key publics. The Information Night was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Inter Continental Manila where potential CFA charterholders, mostly those in the corporate finance industry, were invited to learn more about the CFA Program. One highlight of the event is the formal inauguration of the society's new appellation as CFA Society of the Philippines

Inter-Ed hosts CEO

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS (Inter-Ed), industry leader in student placements for international studies, hosts the first ever Career Education Option or CEO on Sept. 16, at the AIM Conference Center, Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village Makati City. Admission is free and visitors to the CEO exhibit are encouraged to come between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on exhibit day to gain the fullest of benefits from the event. CEO comes at the heels of Inter-Ed's 18th Career Counseling and Guidance Fair on Sept. 14-15, at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd. Pasay City. For more information on CEO and the 18th Career Counseling and Guidance Fair, contact Inter-Ed at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; tel. nos. 819-1001, 819-1002; fax 810-2825, 811-8377; mobile phones (0916)442-6120, (0928) 270-8527; or e-mail intl_edu _specialists@pldtdsl.net.

GoNegosyo goes techno

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PCE), a local advocacy organization known for its GoNegosyo campaign, furthers its entrepreneurial advocacy as it sets its focus on highlighting entrepreneurial opportunities in the science and technology sphere on Sept. 14-15 at the World Trade Center. The TechnoNegosyo expo, which will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., expects to house over 160 exhibitors. Among these are Globe Telecom, Bayantel, PLDT/Smart, and Microsoft Philippines, and other technology providers.



INSULAR LIFE PROMO WINNER
Ruben P. Diaz, a Money Back Plan policyholder, was the 2nd grand prize winner of the 'CASHandog ng Insular Life, I-Text Mo, Info Mo' text campaign. Photo shows Insular Life assistant vice president and Metro Central regional manager Esperanza Gregorio (2nd from left) awarding the P95,000 check to first prize winner Ruben P. Diaz. Witnessing the awarding are Aurora district administrative supervisor Tessie Frogoso (extreme left), and Vilma O. Diaz (extreme right).

Unfocused start for 'Pinoy Dream Academy'

By Noelani Torre

"ACADEMY DREAM NIGHT," last Aug. 26's official opening of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Dream Academy," was held at the Cebu Capitol grounds on a big, colorful stage, and featured more than 50 performers.

But, it would have been a spectacular show if the people involved in the production had kept in mind the first rule in live shows: Rehearse, rehearse—and after you're done, rehearse some more!

Rule

When the show opened with a chaotic, unfocused, seemingly interminable song-and-dance number (with cameras that zoomed and panned just for the heck of it), it became glaringly obvious that the rule had been forgotten.

Things hardly improved after that. The hosts—Toni Gonzaga, Sam Milby and Nikki Gil—made their entrance from behind (or rather, with *their* behinds), with an awkward shot that showed them clambering up the stage. Milby then proceeded to fumble through his lines—thank God for commercial breaks!

For those unfamiliar with what the show is all about, here's a quick rundown from Wikipedia: "Pinoy Dream Academy" is based on a format developed by Endemol (who also came up with "Big Brother"). In its various incarnations around the world, it has been called "Fame Academy," "Operación Triunfo," "Star Factory" and "Star Academy."

MILBY AND GONZAGA. Hosted premiere telecast of ABS-CBN's latest reality-TV franchise.

The show has a boarding-school setup, complete with a headmaster (Jim Paredes) and various teachers whose job it is to hone the contestants' performing skills.

Simple concept

Every week, the Academy puts up a show where judges and the voting public decide who gets to go. It's a simple concept that has become popular in more than 50 countries.

"Pinoy Dream Academy" is the latest addition to ABS-CBN's reality-TV franchise, and it was in the Aug. 26 episode that the show announced who the 16 participating contestants would be.

Thirty eight semifinalists were grouped together into six "sections": Composition, Music and Dance, Music Literature, Musicthematics, Language of Music, and Rockers. Contestants were chosen after every two performances.

First to hit the stage was the Composition section, who gave an acoustic performance of original compositions. It's too early to judge, but they sounded largely derivative.

Strange choice

Music and Dance did a hip-hop number; Music Literature performed standards; Musicthematics featured the music of The Eraserheads (a strange choice, given that E-heads' songs are not known for their being vocally demanding); Language of Music had people dressed up in *faux* native style as they sang songs in regional languages, and Rockers came up with "rock" versions of novelty songs.

Final lineup

It was impossible to predict who would end up in the final lineup, because some choices didn't give good enough performances. It'll remind you of Hugh Grant's line in "American Dreamz" when he says: "Bring me an Arab, a Jew…"

In this particular "Dream" show, you can imagine the producers saying, "Bring me an OFW, a *mestiza*, a native-looking type, and some Asianovela/animé characters." But, of course, we have to try to believe that it's *really* about exceptional talent.

WILSON, HUDSON AND DILLON. Topbill zany comedy.

Operas at UP

MONTAGE

THE FIRST UNIVERSITY OPERA SEASON IS ongoing at UP Diliman's Abelardo Hall, under the auspices of the UP College of Music and Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts.

Last Sept. 5, Pergolosi's "La Serva Padrona" was performed. On Sept. 12, Mozart's "Der Schauspieldirektor" will be staged. On Sept. 21, Donizetti's "L'Elisir D'Amore" is scheduled for performance, and on Sept. 28, Floyd's "Susannah" will be mounted. Call Yvette at 926-0026.

Sun invasion in Pampanga

Sun Cellular's bigger and better network in Pampanga now covers the towns of Apalit, Arayat, Candaba, Floridablanca, Guagua, Lubao, Mabalacat, Macabebe, Magalang, Mexico, Minalin, Porac, San Fernando, San Luis, San Simon, Sta. Rita, Sta. Ana and Sto. Tomas.

To celebrate this feat, Sun recently featured its endorser, popular R&B singer Jay-R, in a motorcade from Mabalacat to Angeles. At the University of the Assumption, fans were entertained with an exciting show featuring Jay-R, Sugarfree and Brownman Revival, and Sun subscribers were treated to free overseas calls to Sun's IDD Top 10 destinations.

Musical caravan

Backroom's musical caravan hits Nasugbu, Batangas with a performance at Batangas State University today. The show features Erik Santos, Kim Flores, Frenchie Dy, K Brosas and the Boxers, and Keanna Reeves.

'You, Me and Dupree'

In the currently showing romantic-comedy romp, "You, Me and Dupree," Kate Hudson and Matt Dillon are newlyweds who are thrilled with their happy, new life together—until Dillon's best friend (Owen Wilson) moves into their lovenest.

Dillon's woes escalate when his boss (Michael Douglas)—who happens to be his wife's dad—makes life miserable for him at the office, as well. Before the previously happy newlyweds know it, their spanking-new marriage is headed for self-destruction.

Is there any way out of this downward spiral? And, can the notoriously undependable Dupree finally get his act together and help his friends save their marriage? Brothers Anthony and Joe Russo direct.

'Unwrapped'

Ongoing until Sept. 15 at the CCP's Little Theater Lobby Wall is "Unwrapped," an exhibit of works by Marco Ruben T. Mallo II.

'Wicker Man'

Nicolas Cage stars as the man who makes the ultimate sacrifice in the long-awaited remake of "Wicker Man," directed by Neil LaBute. Cage plays a highway cop who blames himself for the fiery deaths of a young woman and her daughter. Then, he learns that his former fiancée's own daughter has gone missing. In searching for the answers to these confounding mysteries, Cage's character turns his own life around.

OPERAS/ F5

JAY-R. Endorses Sun Cellular's bigger and better network.

Back. . .

From page F2

candy man makes her "cherry pop and …panties drop."

"Back to Basics" is a musical experiment that follows the exciting artistic trajectory of a talented singer and above-average songwriter.

At the same time, it allows an intimate glimpse into the artist's scarred past and her rosy future—as a public figure and private individual.

Meanwhile, as the generally optimistic tone of the album implies, Christina Aguilera is ready to move on: In the final song, "The Right Man," the pop princess beautifully sings a fitting valedictory: "I leave behind my pain to finally take a chance"…at peace and happiness.

AGUILERA. Intimate glimpse.

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DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20	MONSTER HOUSE G 12:00,2:00,4:05, 6:10,8:15,10:20	YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30
WICKER MAN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

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12.00, 2.30, 5 00, 7.30, 10.00

③ THE WICKER MAN
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7:30, 10:00

④ DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13
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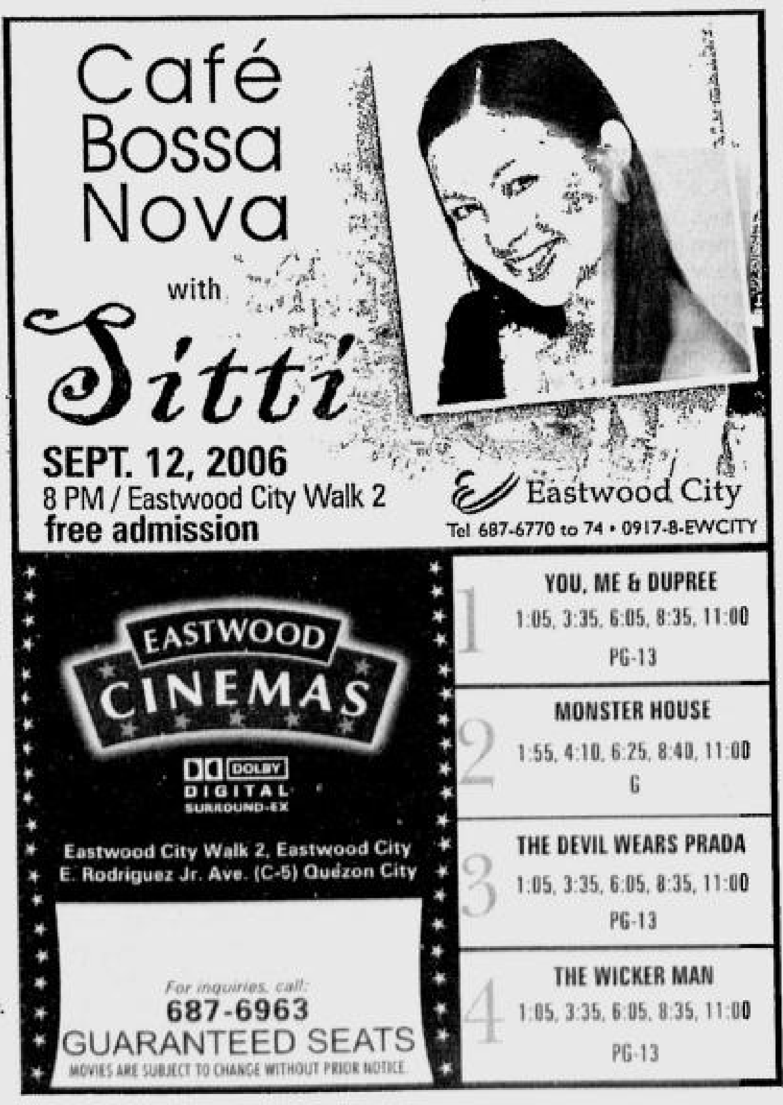

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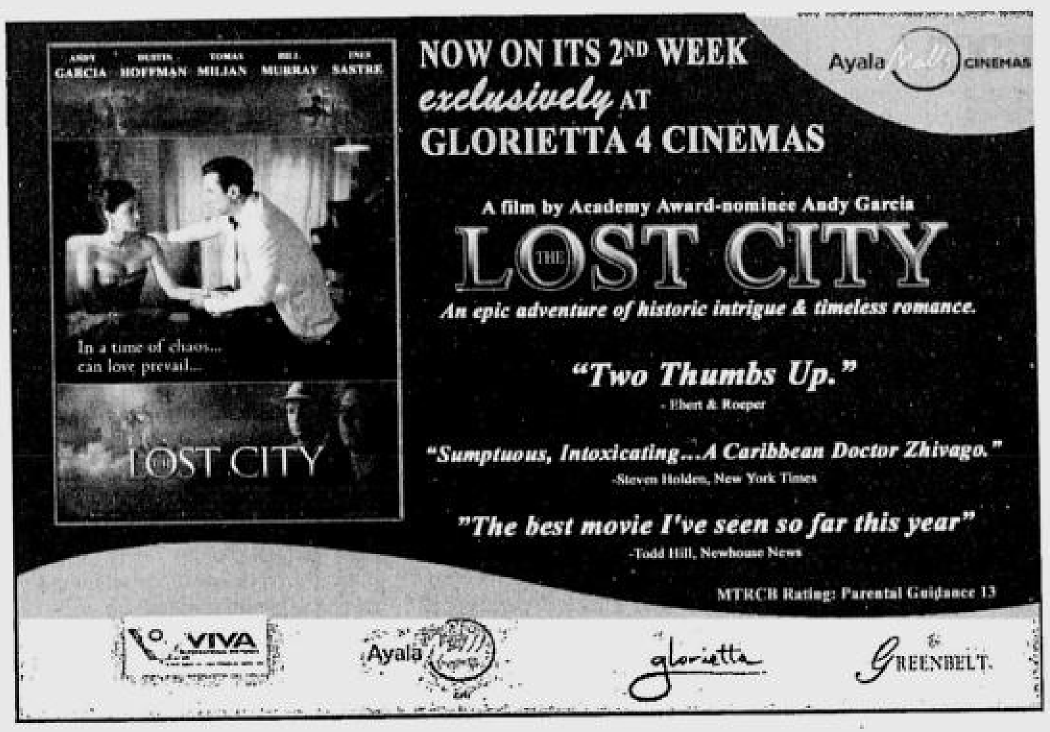
2	MONSTER HOUSE	1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00	G
3	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	THE WICKER MAN	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13



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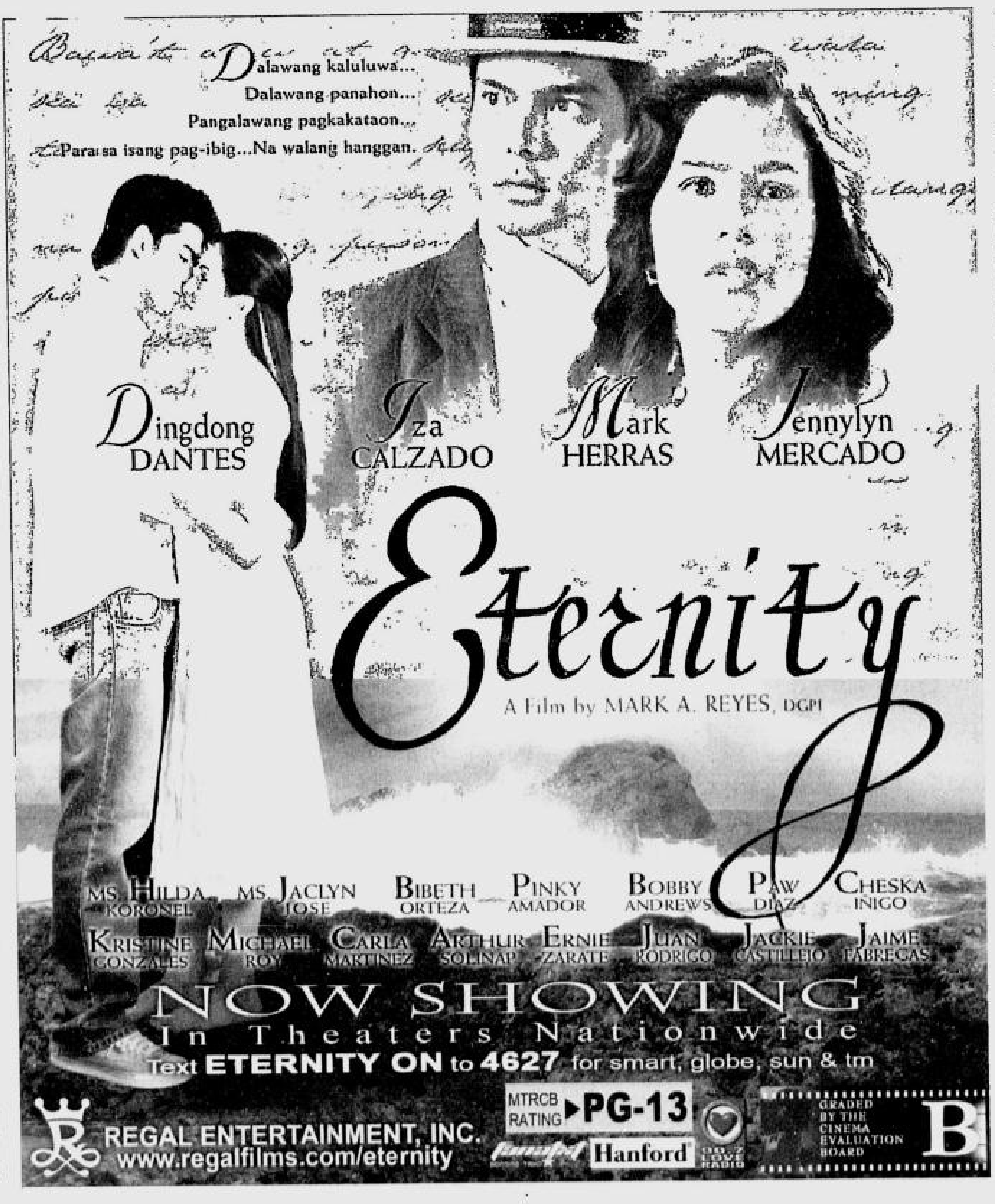
VIVA Ayala glorietta GREENBELT



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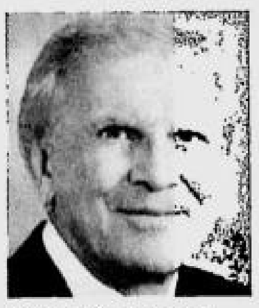
Operas at UP

From page F4

'A Tribute to Teachers'



WAITLEY. Among roster of distinguised speakers.

Today at the Araneta Coliseum, "A Tribute to Teachers" features a distinguished roster of speakers, including Dr. Denis Waitley, Sec. Jesli Lapuz, Sen. Mar Roxas, Butch Jimenez, Francis Kong, Roselle Ambubuyog and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. Dulce and Mitch Valdes are the guest performers.

The event is presented by Bato Balani Foundation in partnership with Diwa Learning Systems, and produced by Salt and Light ventures. Contact the T2T team at tributetoteachers@diwamail.com.

'Blush' album tour

At 5 p.m. today, Imago's "Blush" album tour starts at SM-San Lazaro. The album's carrier single, "Tara Lets," is currently one of the most requested songs on the airlanes.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 9 at 9 p.m., "Sinbad of the Seven Seas." 10:30 a.m., "Shrek 2." 6;50 p.m., "The Terminal." Sept. 10 at 4:15 p.m., "Lackawanna Blues." 5:45 p.m., "Lorenzo's Oil." 2 a.m., "Fahrenheit 9/11." Sept. 11 at 7:15 p.m., "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason." Sept. 12 at 6:30 a.m., "Radio." Sept. 13 at 6:30 a.m., "All the President's Men." 12:40 a.m., "Monster-in-Law." Sept. 14 at 6 a.m., "The Brooke Ellison Story." Sept. 15 at 9 p.m., "Troy."

On Cinemax, Sept. 9 at 8;15 a.m., "The Sleeping Dictionary." Sept. 10 at 6:30 a.m., "The Bellboy." Sept. 11 at 2:55 p.m., "Born Yesterday." Sept. 12 at 5:45 p.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales." Sept. 13 at 4:10 p.m., "Shane." Sept. 14 at 6:30 a.m., "Arabesque." Sept. 15 at 5:50 p.m., "Lone Star."

'GamePlan'

On "GamePlan" (1:30 p.m. tomorrow Sept. 10 on Studio 23), the focus is on the different sports programs that keep the young men and women at the Philippine Military Academy lean, fit and healthy. The program also covers the opening ceremonies of the Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League games.

'Bin Laden's Spy in America'

On Sunday, Sept 10 at 9 p.m., National Geographic Channel premieres the two-hour special, "Bin Laden's Spy in America," the remarkable story of Ali Mohamed, a master spy and senior operative for al Qaeda working within the United States, but with terrorist tentacles that reached around the globe. Replay is at 9 p.m. on Sept. 15.

Jose Mari Chan

Davao Central High School Alumni Association presents Jose Mari Chan in an intimate concert, "A Love to Last a Lifetime," on Sept. 16 7:30 p.m. at SM Megamall Cinema 4. The show will raise funds for the school's Faculty Development program. Call Evelyn Lim Chua at 711-1083 or Tina Chua 242-1081.

'Freeze Me to the Extreme'

UP Samaskom and Astring-o-Sol Ice Extreme present "Freeze Me to the Extreme: The Astring-o-Sol and UP Samaskom Extreme Ice Party." The event, absolutely free to everybody, will be held at Dish, ABS-CBN compound, Mother Ignacia, Quezon City at 8 p.m. tonight. A fashion show will also feature performers like Tuesday Vargas, Top Junk, Kiko Machine and Hemp Republic.

Produced by STEVEN SPIELBERG & ROBERT ZEMECKIS
4TH 'FRIGHTFUL FUN' DAY
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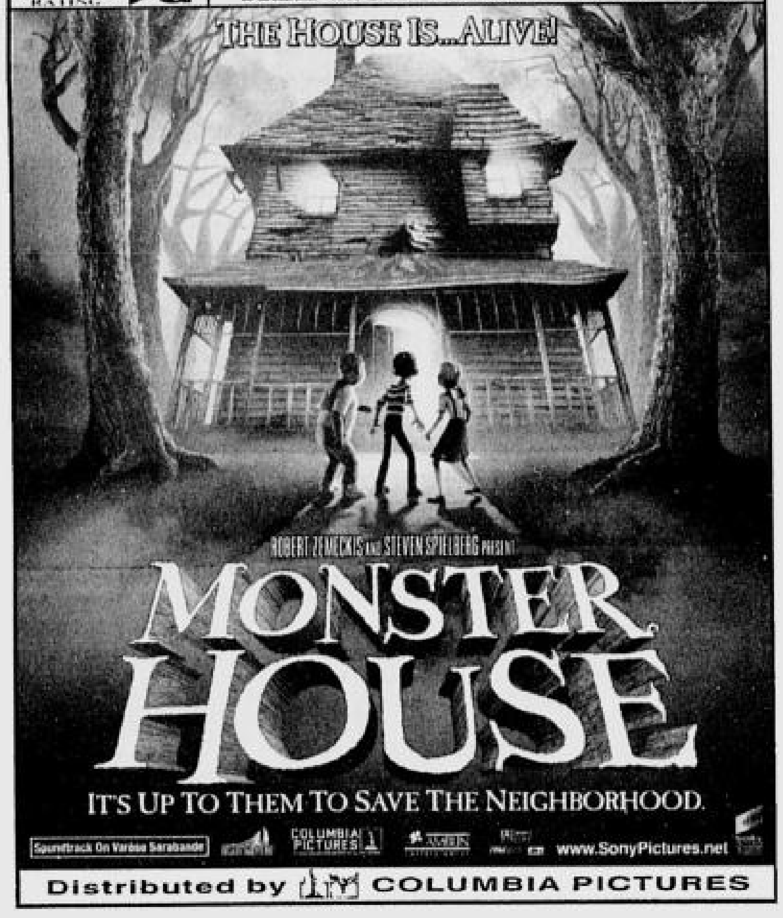

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1 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
2 (DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
3 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
4 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260160

3 ETERNITY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE WICKER MAN
5 MONSTER HOUSE

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433094

1 ETERNITY
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 THE WICKER MAN

THEATRES

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 ETERNITY
2 YOUR AR THE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS) LITTLE MAN
2 (SDDS) YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 GOLD (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
8 SNAKE ON A PLANE
9 ETERNITY
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) ETERNITY
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 ETERNITY
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ETERNITY
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE BREAK UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
4 ETERNITY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.4963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
2 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ETERNITY
2 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 ETERNITY
2 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DTS) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) LITTLE MAN
4 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) ETERNITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 CLICK
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MAPUPULANG LABI
3 MAPANUKSO
4 (DTS) BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CHAOS
3 (DTS) ETERNITY
4 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
5 MONSTER HOUSE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 ETERNITY
3 MONTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE • THX
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

5 ETERNITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 LITTLE MAN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 RESERVE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ETERNITY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

2 RESERVE

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10

4 MONSTER HOUSE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

7 THE WICKER MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

8 ETERNITY
11:25 1:15 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
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PIONEER 687-5378

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2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MORTUARY
4 ETERNITY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 ETERNITY
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKE SON A PLANE
6 MIAMI VICE

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 ETERNITY
6 MIAMI VICE

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4 MORTUARY

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'POP STAR KIDS' FINALS

Five contenders go for broke

By Remy M. Umerez

THE TALENT search's finalists: (From left) Almario, San Jose, Iringan, Bismonte and Rangadhol.

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING WEEK FOR THE five grand contenders of "Pop Star Kids" as they participate in a series of mall shows in preparation for the realization of their dream to become superstars.

The exceptionally talented quintet made up of Rita Daniela Iringan, Pocholo Bismonte, Renzo Ramil Almario, Vanessa Blanca Rangadhol and Julie Anne San Jose had to go through a rigorous elimination round.

Natural grace

One of the judges has pointed out Rita's natural grace and showmanship. Her rendition of the Julia Fordham original, "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways," was her ticket to the finals. Winning the competition would be a fitting birthday gift for Rita, who turns a year older on Sept. 15, two days before the big day.

Not to be outdone, Pocholo can hit high notes with ease. Ten-year-old Renzo is a charmer from Laguna, who has endeared himself to the audience with his version of "My Love Will Always."

Outstanding student

Dusky Vanessa always delivers fresh interpretations of songs, as was evident in her version of "Because of You." Aside from her standout voice, she's also an outstanding student in her school.

Julie, on the other hand, has a beautiful voice and a pretty face. Other skills include playing the guitar, piano and drums.

During the tour, Pocholo and Renzo outshone the girls when they took home the Road Tour Pop Stars of the Week title.

Exciting battle

The exciting battle of beautiful voices resumes when these talented newcomers perform at SM Sta. Molino today. The performance of each contender is judged by a panel of celebrities which includes Nanette Inventor, Arnel Ignacio and Sushi Pineda.

Joining the tilt's young contenders on the tour are host Kyla and "Pinoy Pop Superstar" champion, Gerard Santos. The show's much-anticipated Grand Finals at the Mall of Asia will be telecast on QTV-11 on Sept. 17.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Eye for service

DR. FELIPE I. TOLENTINO AND NEPAL'S DR. Sanduk Ruit are brilliant opthalmologists with big hearts.

Tolentino was recently awarded the Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. as "Bayaning Pilipino sa Amerika." For him, "No person should remain needlessly blind." For his part, Dr. Sanduk Ruit, winner of the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award, believes that "there can be no children of a lesser God. Everyone deserves good vision."

Tolentino organized Restoring Sight International Inc. (RSI), the Opthamological Foundation of the Philippines (OFPHIL) and Asian Eye Institute (AEI).

On the other hand, Ruit opened the Tilganga Eye Center, which has since become the hub of eye-care services in his country.

Hardships

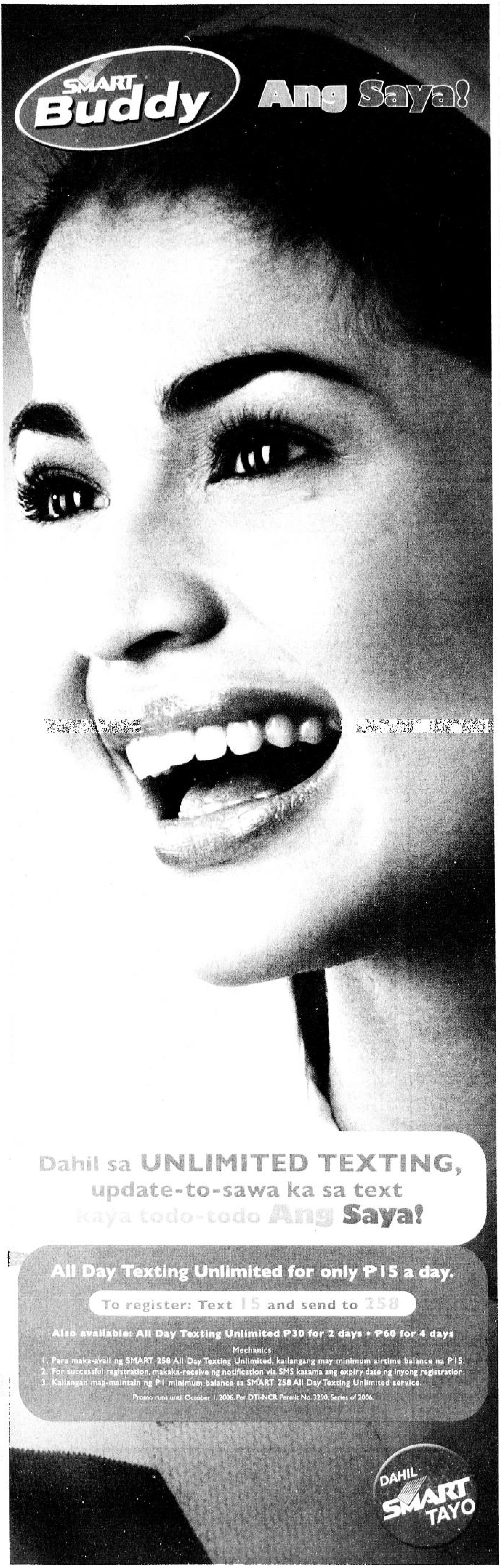
The distinguished physicians were both born to poor families: Tolentino can't forget the hardships that came with being poor, while Ruit was born and raised by an impoverished couple who lived in the mountains. Both won scholarships to study abroad.

Tolentino's AEI makes world-class eye care available—and affordable—in the Philippines, while Ruit's Tilganga Eye Center makes high standard intraocular lenses at affordable prices. Tolentino has helped 10,000 eye patients.

Ruit's mobile eye camps have gone to poverty-stricken communities in China, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and North Korea.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 896-3208.

TOLENTINO AND RUIT (TOP AND ABOVE). Everyone deserves good vision.



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Promo runs until October 1, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3290, Series of 2006.

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CINEMA 4: MONSTER HOUSE 10:50 , 1:05 , 3:20 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10 GP

CINEMA 5: YOU , ME & DUPREE 10:30 , 12:45 , 3:05 5:25 , 7:45 , 10:10 PG-13

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SATURDAY Special

Are viewers ready for the 9/11 films?

By Nestor U. Torre

FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, THE 9/11 "aircraft attacks" demolished the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York City and massacred 3,000 Americans, plunging the United States into a national depression from which some traumatized victims have yet to fully recover.

For this reason, TV-film productions dealing with that national trauma were put on hold and kept from reaching the screen, for fear of hitting an exceedingly raw nerve.

In fact, images of the twin towers in some existing productions had to be digitally erased, so as not to hurt the sensibilities of viewers still reeling from the televised carnage.

Significance

But, for how long would Hollywood have to sidestep that national tragedy and its significance to the world? How much longer would the US be officially in denial about the most lethal terrorist attack on its shores to date?

Earlier this year, Paul Greengrass' "United 93" tested the waters. It was the ideal production to do this because, while it dealt with a side story to 9/11, it did not show the traumatic images of the World Trade Center's towers being attacked and eventually crumbling to the ground.

Instead, it focused on the courageous story of the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, which was also intended to be a terrorist-piloted missile of doom and destruction, but instead crashed into a field because its passengers had attacked the terrorists in the plane's cockpit before they could execute their deadly plan.

Some Hollywood observers predicted that traumatized viewers would stay away from the movie, but they were wrong. Still, the film was put out only on limited release, so the impact of its US run was relatively modest.

More decisive

Currently, a much more decisive cinematic moment of truth is taking place, with the US release of Oliver Stone's "World Trade Center."

This time around, the film zeroes in directly on the World Trade Center's Ground Zero, and the horrors that took place there.

In other words, the movie stalks the devil in his fetid lair, and viewers will no longer be able to shirk from the harsh reality of 9/11—unless they choose to stay away.

Observers believe, however, that many Americans will decide to view the film, because they feel that "it's time" for them to finally wrestle with the demons it engendered.

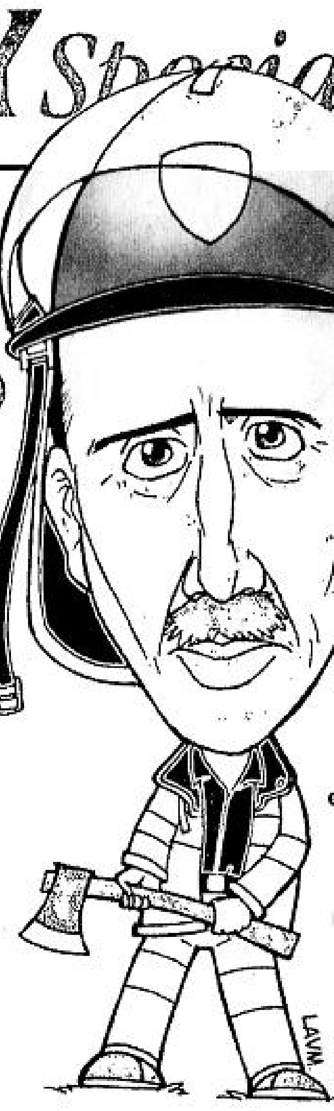
Also, the film has scrupulously steered clear of strongly terrorist and political issues related to 9/11, opting instead to concentrate on stories of courage and heroism that transform the trauma into an inspiring testament to the essential nobility of the human spirit.

Terrorists may have brought down the WTC towers, but "World Trade Center" seeks to lift viewers' hearts and hopes up once again.

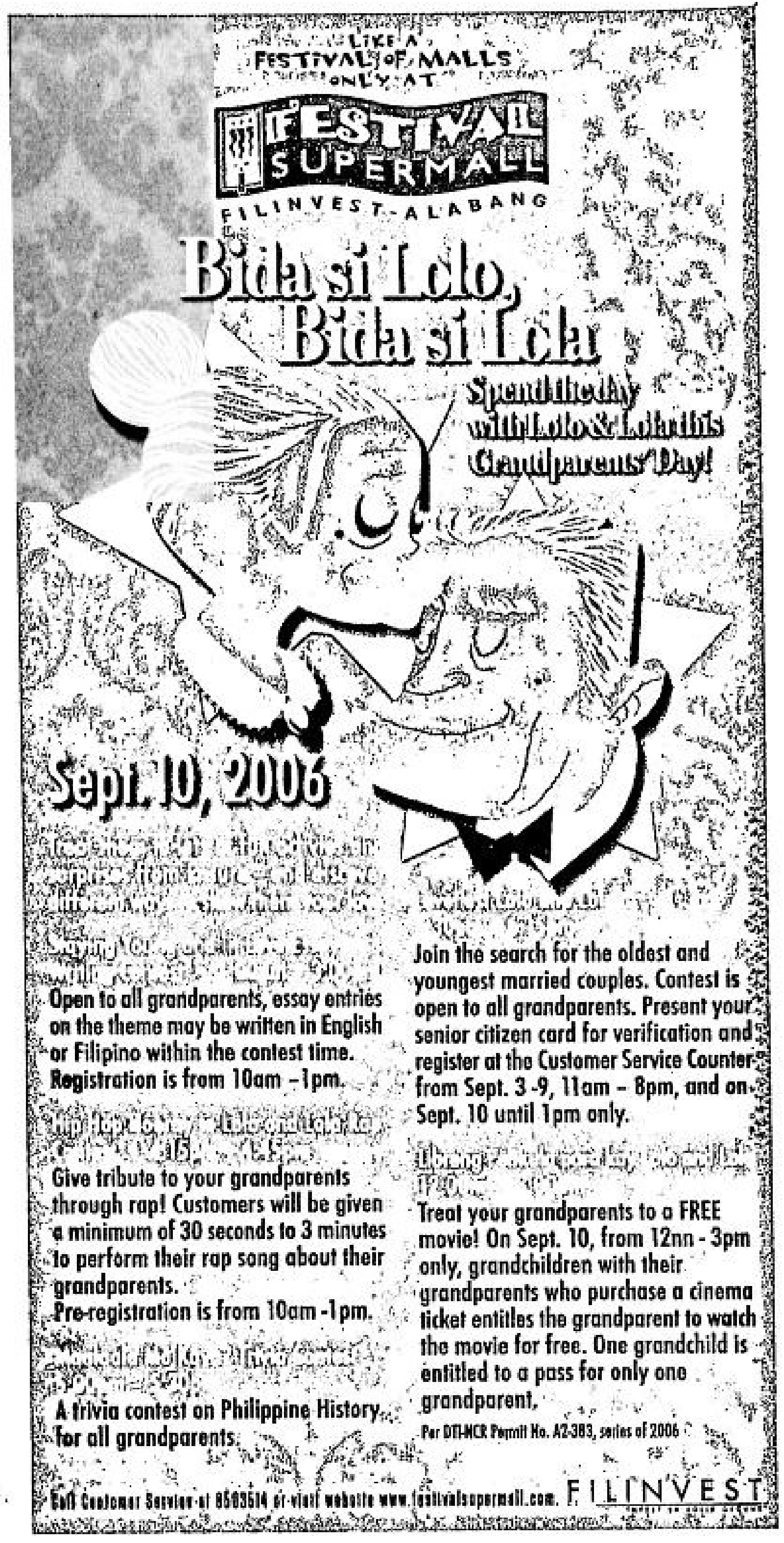
The film's main focus is on the story of New York Port Authority policemen (played by Nicolas Cage and Michael Peña) who, along with other colleagues, rush into the stricken towers to rescue victims of the attack—only to be trapped in the ruins, necessitating their having to be rescued by other "ordinary" people as heroic as themselves.

Personal element

Thus, the personal element shines through, inviting strong viewer empathy. Hopefully, it's powerful enough to motivate moviegoers to rise above timorous feelings of fear and trembling, and to be swept up by the policemen's inspiring story of heroism.



CAGE. Plays "ordinary" policeman whose extraordinary courage vivifies the essential nobility of the human spirit. CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES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Sept. 10, 2006

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Join the search for the oldest and youngest married couples. Contest is open to all grandparents. Present your senior citizen card for verification and register at the Customer Service Counter from Sept. 3 -9, 11am - 8pm, and on Sept. 10 until 1pm only.

[illegible]

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-383, series of 2006

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
PREMIERE CINEMA
ETERNITY
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WICKER MAN
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
YOU, ME AND DUPREE
CINEMA 2
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 WICKER MAN
8 ETERNITY
9 SARONG BANGGI
10 LITTLE MAN
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 WICKER MAN
7 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 LITTLE MAN
12 SNAKEs ON A PLANE

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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 ETERNITY
7 WICKER MAN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 STAY ALIVE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
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2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 ETERNITY
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8 SARONG BANGGI
9 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
10 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 SARONG BANGGI
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

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8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SARONG BANGGI

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2 ETERNITY
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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NOW SHOWING

Three must-see genre films

By Rito P. Asilo

“"The Wicker Man”

D: Neil LaBute
S: Nicolas Cage, Ellen Burstyn

NEIL LABUTE BRINGS CLASS AND style to the trite thriller genre in his noirish retread of Robin Hardy's 1973 cult classic, about Edward Malus (Nicolas Cage), a cop drawn to a mysterious island of beekeepers to investigate the disappearance of Rowan (Erika Gair), the daughter of his runaway finacée, Willow (Kate Beahan).

In this picturesque, idyllic haven, men are strangely subservient to pleasant, homely women, and residents seem to be preparing for a mysterious ritual. But, no one is telling Edward anything—not even Willow!

He later learns that the missing child is his—and that paternity and love are no guarantee for safety or loyalty. What secrets is Sister Summersisle's (Ellen Burstyn) eerie community trying to hide? Edward has to piece together a confounding web of lies and deception—before it's too late!

CAGE AND BEAHAN. Classy, stylish thriller.

Cage is perfectly cast opposite the glorious Burstyn and her wily “coven” of always-smiling constituents. And, while the production is bogged down by gaping holes in its engaging narrative thread, it nevertheless engages with an intriguing, dark premise that LaBute mines *via* metaphorical, visual subtexts and well-choreographed sequences.

In its worn-out genre, the movie is a small cinematic gem that doesn't just scare the living daylights out of its viewer—it also makes him think.

“Sarong Banggi”

D: Emmanuel dela Cruz
S: Jaclyn Jose, Angelo Ilagan

Like Ming-Liang Tsai's “What Time Is It There?,” Emman dela Cruz's cerebral film is not for the impatient moviegoer who wants his facts spoon-fed to him—sometimes, the movie takes forever to tell its story. But, unlike Tsai's production, Dela Cruz's lovely film is a cinematic slow-burn that grows on you as it languorously establishes its plot and side stories.

The drama, an entry at last year's Cinemalaya film fest, follows Nyoy (Angelo Ilagan), who strikes an unlikely friendship with Melba, the aging hooker (Jaclyn Jose, in one the best performances of her sterling career) he and his friends run away from. Unwittingly, the star-crossed pair later shockingly realizes that sex, friendship and man's need for companionship aren't the only things that link them.

Don't get put-off by the “improvised” references to prostitution and poverty, which the film addresses in a non-preachy manner. After all, these are social and economic issues that the government has failed to successfully address.

While Emman's film is not as polished as you'd hope, you'll be floored nonetheless by the performances turned in by Jose and the promising Ilagan.

The movie's sad, ruminative and contemplative tone works *because* Jaclyn makes it work: A high-wire act that showcases the actress' immense gifts as one of the country's most accomplished performers.

“Monster House”

D: Gil Kenan
S: Steve Buscemi, Kathleen Turner, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Fast-paced, entertaining and ultimately heart-tugging, debuting director Gil Kenan and producers Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis bring to the big screen one of the year's best animated features, about 12-year-old DJ (voiced by Mitchel Musso), who teams up with bosom buddy, Chowder (Sam Lerner), and teen queen, Jenny (Spencer Locke), to battle the 45-year-old demonic force (Kathleen Turner) that haunts the decrepit, people-chomping Victorian mansion across the street.

To accomplish this, the irascible trio first has to go through its fierce, cadaverous owner, Nebbercracker.

Kenan's movie boasts of inspired voice work from Muso, Lerner, Locke, Turner, Maggie Gyllenhaal (who plays Zee, DJ's nanny from hell) and Jason Lee (as Zee's stoned-out boyfriend).

But, the brisk (it clocks at only 86 minutes) and visually-enthralling production benefits mostly from the film's heart-pounding, edge-of-your-seat final quarter, and from Kenan's clear, straightforward storytelling style.

The young auteur makes his movie bustle with energy, narrative urgency, horror—and, yes, a lot of heart!

It reminds us that people like you and me, however flawed we are perceived to be, are a work in progress—that also deserves second chances in life.

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Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

Rosanna Roces plays 'martyr' mom on 'MMK'

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SEPT. 1'S "MAALA-ALA MO Kaya" was a should-see production in our book because it featured Rosanna Roces' first performance in months. It was a surprise and even a shock to see how plump she has become.

But, the acting ability was still there. Rosanna proved this from the very start of the evening's drama, about a woman who put up with her husband's (Albert Martinez) womanizing ways in order to keep her only son's psychological health on even keel.

Second wife

It turns out that the boy had become emotionally unhinged when his shiftless father didn't go home, because he had shacked up with a second wife.

Rosanna's character loved her son so much that she put up with all that—and eventually even lived in the second wife's house—just to keep her son close to his father.

She also worked at any and all odd jobs, just to make the income that her wastrel of a husband couldn't provide.

Sadly, her other children weren't grateful to her for doing this, because they felt that she was being much too subservient to her irresponsible spouse.

However, when they grew older and their youngest sibling's psychological health improved, they saw the strange wisdom in their mother's decision to make a martyr of herself.

In the end, Rosanna even became the confidante of her husband's second wife, after he had made life miserable for her, as well. And so, after copious tears had been shed, the Mother for All Reasons "reigned" triumphant and supreme.

The episode was fraught with all sorts of melodramatic highlights that were so turgidly achieved and milked for effect that they became bathetic, instead of affectingly pathetic.

It was also really hard to take that Rosanna's character had to sacrifice her self-respect to the extent of "legitimizing" her rival's claim to her husband, by living with them.

Still, we had to accept that far-out plot conceit, because we were assured that it really happened to the episode's letter writer, and because it showed the depths of the mother's love for her disturbed child.

Compromise

Besides, Rosanna's focused and deeply felt performance helped make the terrible compromise both understandable and "acceptable."

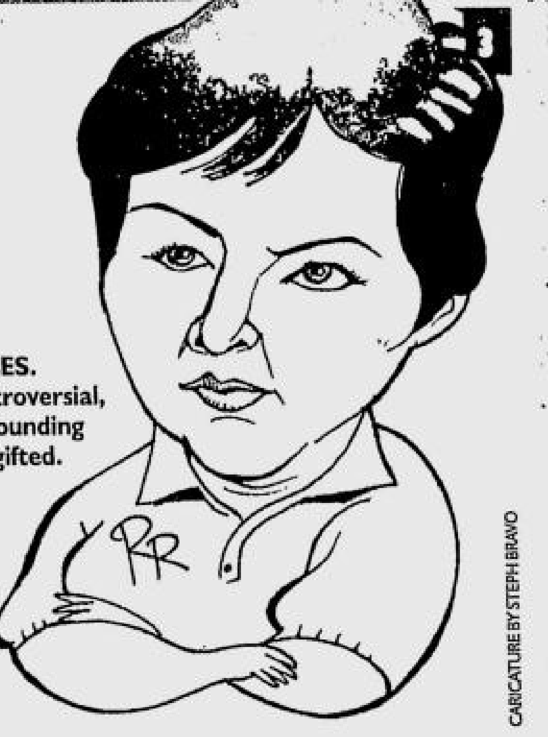
Indeed, Rosanna's understanding of her character was so clear that the actress was able to come up with a memorable portrayal without resorting to tearful hysterics.

The first time we saw Rosanna perform onscreen (she went by the screen name of Ana Maceda in those days), she already evinced the qualities of a good thespian. It's too bad that her wrong career choices have turned producers off and made her relatively inactive as an actress these days.

But, her "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" episode proves that the talent is still there, so we hope that Rosanna can get her act together and revive her thespic career once more.

For that to happen, of course, she'll have to lose all that excess poundage, and producers have to "forgive" her and give her a second chance as a TV-film performer.

Are they up to it? Is Rosanna? Here's hoping that we haven't seen the last of the controversial, confounding but gifted Rosanna Roces.



ROCES. Controversial, confounding but gifted.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

Verses for the soul

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

GEMS OF WISDOM ABOUND IN DIFFERENT scriptures. One book, "Chaitanya Charitamrita," contains memorable verses on spiritual wisdom:

"A surrendered soul prays, 'Oh Lord, there's no limit to the unwanted orders of lusty desire. Although I have rendered them so much service, they have not shown me mercy. I am not ashamed to serve them, nor have I ever desired to give them up.

"Recently, however, my intelligence has been awakened, and now I am giving it up. Due to transcendental intelligence, I refuse to obey the unwanted orders of desire—I surrender myself at Your fearless lotus feet. Engage me in personal service and save me." CC 22.16

Courage

The Supreme Person says: "A person is immediately freed from ignorance and illusion if he sincerely prays, 'My Lord, although I have forgotten about You in this material world, I am surrendering myself to You today. I am Your servant.' I vow that if a person surrenders himself to Me and prays for courage, I shall immediately award it to him, and He will always stay safe." CC 22.33-34

The Supreme Being says, "A person who engages in transcendental loving service, but at the same time, yearns for the opulence of material wealth is very foolish. Indeed, he's like a person who gives up ambrosia over poison.

Prosperity

"If I am intelligent, why should I give this fool material prosperity? Instead, I shall urge him to taste the nectar sheltered at My lotus feet, and make him forget illusory enjoyment." CC 22.38-39

"There are conditioned souls who are bereft of the Lord's service. Not knowing how to cross the ocean of nescience, they are scattered by waves, and by time and tide. However, some people are fortunate to contact devotees—an act that delivers them from the ocean of nescience." CC 22.43

"'Because I have fallen, I shall never get a chance to see the Supreme Person.' This is false apprehension. A person who falls like I do may get to see the Supreme Person. Even if one is carried away by waves in the river of time, he will eventually reach the shore!" CC 22.24

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	4 THE LOST CITY	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 YOU, ME & DUPREE	7 ETERNITY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX YOU, ME & DUPREE 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MONSTER HOUSE 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 YOU ARE THE ONE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE WICKER MAN 2:20, 4:39, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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Rousing time at the Emmys

By Noelani Torre

FOR THE FIRST 10 MINutes of the 58th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards, it looked like it was going to be a Conan O'Brien show. "Late Night's" host opened the show with filmclips that featured him on a plane on his way to the Emmys, crashing on an island *a la* "Lost," getting caught up in "The Office," not saving lives on "24," being insulted by Dr. House, finding somebody in the closet in "South Park" (*cough* Tom Cruise *cough*), and accused of being a pedophile on "Dateline NBC."

Hilarious monologue

When O'Brien finally emerged onstage, it was to hearty applause that recurred after a hilarious monologue—that included panning his own network (NBC) and its recent ratings troubles. Since NBC was airing the Emmys, he said, "halfway through, the show will be cancelled." People laughed even harder when he segued into a song-and-dance number that further poked fun at the network.

It was a funny, snappy opening, and after that, the show moved along briskly without losing its rhythm. Hosting the awards show for the second time, Conan kept up the pace by throwing in well-timed nuggets of comedy, the funniest of which was a running gag involving Bob Newhart:

O'Brien showed the TV icon inside a capsule that had enough air for just three hours. If winners took too long with their acceptance speeches, he gravely intoned, "Bob Newhart dies."

Highlights

It must have worked, because the show—which was scheduled to run for three hours—did not go overtime. Aside from O'Brien himself, the program had other highlights, comedic and otherwise:

FAWCETT, JACKSON AND SMITH. Reunite to pay tribute to Aaron Spelling.

The show paid tribute to late producer Aaron Spelling, with no less than the original "Charlie's Angels" themselves: Jaclyn Smith, Farrah Fawcett and Kate Jackson—all looking very well-preserved.

Jeremy Piven's acceptance speech for his supporting comedy actor award ("Entourage") was short and sweet. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who won the trophy for outstanding lead actress in a comedy (for "The New Adventures of Old Christine") was ecstatic, weepy, and then horrified—all in one minute!

On the road with Cinemalaya

By Rica Arevalo

I'VE JUST COME BACK FROM THE FIRST LEG of the Cinemalaya tour with filmmakers Emman dela Cruz ("Sarong Banggi") and Milo Tolentino ("Alimuom"). Our destination: Naga, Bicol. The team, led by Armie Laudencia of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, didn't get bored during the nine-hour drive.

Screenings

We knew that Bicolanos were itching to get a glimpse of the first batch of Cinemalaya films produced last year. The 800-seater theater of the Unibersidad de Sta. Isabel was jampacked during screenings with students from Sta. Isabel, Ateneo de Naga University, University of Nueva Caceres and Naga College Foundation.

Grade school students loved Doy del Mundo's "Pepot Artista." To perk things up after screenings, thr group did an impromptu search for "Bicol Idol." Emman did some *Kuya* Germs-like hosting chores, while Milo acted as judge. I became the official photographer—talk about multitasking!

The appreciative members of the audience viewing Ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" were louder than usual. They noticed every detail of the film, because they were having fun—laughing and crying with Maxi! The Naga screening also served as a promotional tool for "Sarong Banggi," a quiet film that earned Jaclyn Jose the coveted Urian best actress award rcently.

The Bicolanos were active during Q&A. Students aired their concerns about current trends in Philippine Cinema. Some requested for scriptwriting workshops. I recall annual summer workshops under Nestor Torre, sponsored by the Film Development Foundation, with *Manay* Ichu Maceda at its helm. Top graduates include award-winning TV and film scriptwriters, Michiko Yamamoto, Adolf Alix Jr. and Agnes de Guzman. Perhaps this kind of workshop can also be brought to the different regions?

Mutual respect

One thing was certain: Interacting with the Naga residents opened the minds of filmmakers and fostered respect between students and directors. By screening indies at alternative venues, you develop an audience for innovative films.

Next stops: Malolos, Bulacan (tomorrow); Lipa Batangas (Sept. 13); Marawi City (Sept. 18); Cagayan de Oro (Sept. 21); Iloilo (Sept. 25) and Bacolod (Sept. 28).

Contact Armie 0918484-6460, or e-mail ablaudencia@yahoo.com.

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Robert, Isay in 'Love you, Hate You, Love You'

"LOVE YOU, HATE YOU, LOVE You," the musical-comedy conceptualized and performed by singing couple, Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña, kicked off its third run last Sept. 7 at the Teatrino (Promenade, Greenhills Shopping Center).

Chronicling the ups and downs of love, romance and marriage through hilarious skits and engaging musical productions, the show has sparked new interest in cabaret-type performances in Manila's live entertainment circuit.

Overwhelming

"We were surprised!," Isay exclaims. "The audience's response to the first two runs was overwhelming. At first, they thought we were only serious singers, but they soon realized that we are actors, as well—and making fast costume changes is something we really enjoy. The show has a sweet and meaningful message, after all!"

Being the world-class theater veterans that they are, the couple's creative juices were inspired by the wealth of materials that they felt would click with the Filipino audience.

"We used to enjoy watching our gay friends do this in London," Isay recalls. "All the skits and monologues... Of course, our versions are more wholesome and sung live!"

Taking their concept from idea to finished product, it was only natural that the couple drew inspiration from their own experiences. "Toward the end of the show, we don't assume characters anymore," Isay explains.

With art imitating life and vice versa, Isay says: "Of course, there are parallelisms. What's important is the love, ultimately. It's not *that* easy to stay married, especially since we're both in the same business. People ask if we ever get bored with each other. Well, no. Our personalities are so complementary. We're both *makulit!*"

Perfect venue

The show also serves as perfect venue for the launching of their new album, "Dueto." Their first collaborative effort ever, the collection showcases all-Filipino love songs like "Kung Ako'y Magaasawa," "Ikaw ang Mahal Ko," "Minamahal, Sinasamba," "Ang Daigdig Ko'y Ikaw," "Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan" and "Habang Buhay," composed by Jenine Desiderio.

"We do songs from the album in the show," Isay adds. "After all, they're timeless Filipino love songs that speak so much about the commitment."

The show also features Mel Villena as musical diretcor, with Noel Santiago (guitar), Michael Alba (drums), Joey Quirino (keyboards) and Caloy Herrera (bass).

Series

The series' other show dates: Sept. 14, Rotary Club of Bacoor; Sept. 21, Rotary Club of New Manila East; Sept. 28, AIDS Society of the Philippines; Oct. 12 Chapel of Nazareth Home and Prayer, Mendez, Tagaytay; Oct. 19, Gov. Dan Espinosa of Rotary Club of QC; Oct. 26, Concept Marketing Specialists, Inc. for Manila Youth Foundation, and Nov. 3, Kaentrep.

ALVAREZ AND SEÑA. Making fast costume changes is something they really enjoy!

Celebrities mix looks and brains

By Behn Cervantes

"THOSE WHO CAN, DO. THOSE who can't, teach." This, a common saying in theater departments of academic institutions in the United States, is in reference to students of Acting.

If you are talented, you're contracted by agents even *before* you get your degree. Therefore, if you finish the course and get a degree, then you aren't talented, after all. You probably are meant to *merely* earn a Master's degree—and teach.

The saying became popular in the '50s because talented students were then contracted during their studies, so many of them didn't really graduate.

Tutelage

Instead, what became centers of learning, at least as far as acting was concerned, were places like the Actors' Studio (under the tutelage of acting icon Lee Strasberg).

Paul Newman was a student of Yale University. However, he was so talented that Broadway agents—and later, Hollywood—quickly grabbed him after noting his talent in the school's theater productions. Besides, in his youth, Newman was a look-alike of Marlon Brando, Tinseltown's then biggest new star.

Jack Lemmon was also a Yale student before he attracted agents and gained acclaim for his Academy Award-winning performance in "Mister Roberts."

However, Yale graduates of late have done their alma mater proud by actually *getting* their degrees *and* making waves in Hollywood. In fact, the university must have garnered the most number of golden statuettes—at least, in the acting category.

The divine Meryl Streep, a proud Yale alumna, has won three so far. The super-talented actress' career is still going at full steam, so who knows if she will eventually top the great Katharine Hepburn's record of four Academy Awards.

SHIELDS. Holds a Master's degree from Princeton.

Jodie Foster, another Yale graduate, has two Oscars, while Tommy Lee Jones has one.

Other Hollywood stars like Charlton Heston studied in reputable American universities prior to professional success.

Gratitude

In a joint interview NUT and I had with the star of "The 10 Commandments," the Academy Award winner declared his gratitude to Northwestern University and its most famous acting mentor. (Since NUT himself is an alumnus of the said university, *he* supplied the grand dame's name.)

Brooke Shields was a phenomenal child star. She was so beautiful that she was expected to be the next Elizabeth Taylor.

However, industry expectations didn't quite pan out, as the plucky teenager put her career on hold to go to college and earn her Master's degree—from Princeton University, no less!

Fame

The late Steve Reeves, prior to finding fame as Superman, was a Cornell University student.

Even Ronald Reagan was a Midwest University alumnus *before* he launched his career as a radio announcer.